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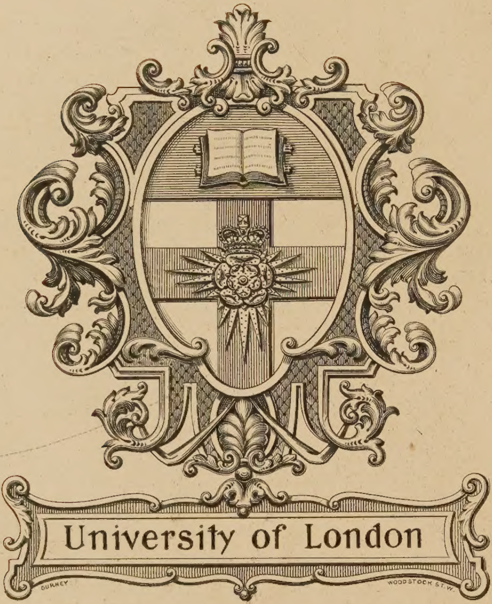

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THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

AUTHORISED EDITION.

FOURTH SERIES:

COMMENCING WITH THE THIRD SESSION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

57 & 58 VICTORIÆ.

VOLUME XXIX.

COMPRISING THE PERIOD FROM
THE TWENTIETH DAY OF AUGUST
TO
THE TWENTY-FIFTH DAY OF AUGUST,
1894.

EIGHTH AND LAST VOLUME OF THE SESSION.

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1894.

29/27
Hon. N. F. D. Smith, M.P.

ERRATUM AND OMISSION.

District and Parish Councils—For Questions relating to refer to titles *District and Parish Councils* and *Local Government Act.*

Parks, Bands in, Q. Mr. Aird; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *April* 3 [22] 1251

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TO

VOLUME XXIX.

FOURTH SERIES.

LORDS, MONDAY, AUGUST 20.

Page

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES—

Moved, "That the Lord Balfour of Burleigh do take the Chair this day in Committee of the Whole House in the absence of the Chairman of Committees,"—(*The Earl of Kimberley.*)

Motion *agreed to.*

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—

Ordered, That Standing Order No. XXXIX. be suspended for the remainder of the Session.

UGANDA—Motion for an Address—

Moved,

"That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty for a copy of any instructions which may have been sent to Her Majesty's Commissioner in Uganda with respect to the future administration of that country,"—(*The Lord Stanmore.*)

After short Debate, Motion (by leave of the House) withdrawn ... 7

Building Societies (No. 2) Bill (No. 208)—

Amendments reported (according to Order).

After short Debate, and Amendments *agreed to,*

Bill to be read 3ª To-morrow; and to be printed, as amended. (No. 222.) 8

Diseases of Animals Bill (No. 220)—

Order of the Day for the Second Reading, read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª,"—(*The Earl of Chesterfield.*)

Motion *agreed to:* Bill read 2ª accordingly; and (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) committed to a Committee of the Whole House forthwith.

Drafting and verbal Amendments.

Standing Committee negatived.

Amendments reported; Bill read 3ª, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

[*August* 20.] *Page*

Crown Lands Bill (No. 199)—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

Heritable Securities (Scotland) Bill (No. 202)—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

Canal Tolls and Charges Provisional Order (No. 4) (Birmingham Canal) Bill (No. 198)—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to ... 9

Canal Tolls and Charges Provisional Order (No. 10) (Lagan, &c. Canals) Bill (No. 190)—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

Statute Law Revision Bill [H.L.] **(No. 161)**—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments; The said Amendments to be considered To-morrow.

Canal Tolls and Charges Provisional Order (No. 6) (River Lee, &c.) Bill (No. 211)—House in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª To-morrow.

Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill (No. 207)—Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed.

Housing of the Working Classes (Borrowing Powers) Bill (No. 209)—Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed.

Merchant Shipping Bill (No. 204)—Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed.

Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Bill (No. 215)—House in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived; Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 3ª, and passed.

Juries (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill (No. 216)—House in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived: Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 3ª, and passed.

Expiring Laws Continuance Bill (No. 217)—House in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived: Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 3ª, and passed ... 10

Railway and Canal Traffic Bill (No. 218)—House in Committee (according to Order): An Amendment made: Standing Committee negatived: Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Amendment reported; Bill read 3ª, with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

COMMONS, MONDAY, AUGUST 20.

QUESTIONS.

—o—

HEREFORDSHIRE CHARITIES—Question, Mr. Dodd; Answer, The Vice President of the Council (Mr. Acland).

THE BALLOT AT PARISH COUNCILS AND MEETINGS—Questions, Mr. Cobb, Mr. Storey; Answers, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Shaw-Lefevre) 11

RADWAY SCHOOL, WARWICKSHIRE—Question, Mr. Cobb; Answer, The Vice President of the Council (Mr. Acland) 12

CATHOLICS IN THE ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY—Questions, Mr. D. Sullivan, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Sexton; Answers, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley) 13

PRESBYTERIANS IN THE ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY—Question, Captain Donelan; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley) ... 14

DOG LICENCE FINES IN SCOTLAND—Question, Mr. Paul; Answer, The Lord Advocate (Mr. J. B. Balfour) 15

[*August* 20.] Page

THE ERASMUS SMITH ENDOWMENT—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley).
INCOMES OF PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS—Question, Mr. Cobb; Answer, The Vice President of the Council (Mr. Acland) 17
ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL, WAKEFIELD—Question, Viscount Cranborne; Answer, The Vice President of the Council (Mr. Acland).
THE WICKLOW MAGISTERIAL BENCH—Question, Mr. J. O'Connor; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley).
CATTLE TRAFFIC ON IRISH RAILWAYS—Question, Mr. Macartney; Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Bryce) 18
INSPECTORS OF WORKSHOPS IN LONDON—Questions, Mr. Keir-Hardie; Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Asquith).
THE INTERNATIONAL CODE BOOK—Question, Mr. Tomlinson; Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Bryce) 19
AUXILIARY POSTMEN AT CHRISTMAS—Question, Mr. J. Rowlands; Answer, The Postmaster General (Mr. A. Morley) 20
PARTY RIOTS AT LURGAN—Question, Mr. Macartney; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley).
THE "COSTA RICA PACKET"—Question, Mr. Henniker Heaton; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir E. Grey) ... 21
CROMWELL'S STATUE FOR WESTMINSTER—Question, Mr. Everett; Answer, The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. H. Gladstone).
THE PEERS' VETO—Questions, Mr. Cobb, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Bartley; Answers, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir W. Harcourt).
"A DIALOGUE AT WATERLOO"—Questions, Mr. Thornton; Answers, The Secretary to the Treasury (Sir J. T. Hibbert) 22
LABOURERS' COTTAGES AT TRIM—Questions, Mr. Kennedy; Answers, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley) 23
TRAWLING—Question, Mr. Buchanan; Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Sir G. Trevelyan) 24
DAY NATIONAL SCHOOLS—Question, Viscount Cranborne; Answer, The Vice President of the Council (Mr. Acland) 25
POST OFFICE OFFICIALS AND LOCAL COUNCILS—Question, Mr. Storey; Answer, The Postmaster General (Mr. A. Morley).
JABEZ BALFOUR—Question, Sir R. Temple; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir E. Grey) 26
THE AFRICAN PROTECTORATES—Questions, Sir C. W. Dilke, Mr. Buchanan; Answers, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir E. Grey).
THE COURSE OF BUSINESS—Questions, Viscount Cranborne, Dr. Clark, Mr. R. Wallace, Mr. Tomlinson, Mr. Warner, Mr. Dalziel, Mr. Seymour Keay; Answers, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir W. Harcourt), The Secretary for Scotland (Sir G. Trevelyan) ... 27
THE IRISH LAND COMMITTEE AND THE PEERS—Personal Explanations, Mr. Macartney, Mr. Sexton 28
THE ORDER OF BUSINESS—Question, Mr. R. Wallace; Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir W. Harcourt) 31

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS—That they have agreed to,—

Amendment to—

Copyhold Consolidation Bill [Lords].

Amendments to—

Quarries Bill [Lords].

Coal Mines (Check Weigher) Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

Railway and Canal Traffic Bill, with an Amendment.

Diseases of Animals Bill, with Amendments.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

—o—

SUPPLY,—*considered* in Committee—

(In the Committee.)

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1894-5.

CLASS II.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed,

"That a sum, not exceeding £24,674, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of the Registrar General of Births, &c., in England."

After Debate, Vote *agreed to* 45

2. £6,915, to complete the sum for Secretary of Scotland's Office.

After short Debate, Vote *agreed to* 53

3. Motion made, and Question proposed,

"That a sum, not exceeding £16,739, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Fishery Board in Scotland and for Grants in Aid of Piers or Quays."

After Debate, Vote *agreed to* 64

4. £87,081, to complete the sum for Local Government Board, Ireland ... 65

After short Debate, Vote *agreed to.*

CLASS III.

5. £37,641, to complete the sum for Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions, Ireland.

After short Debate, Vote *agreed to* 71

6. £65,800, to complete the sum for Supreme Court of Judicature and other Legal Departments in Ireland, *agreed to.*

7. £34,662, to complete the sum for Irish Land Commission, *agreed to.*

8. £63,879, to complete the sum for County Court Officers, &c., Ireland, *agreed to.*

9. £59,222, to complete the sum for Dublin Metropolitan Police, *agreed to.*

10. £668,249, to complete the sum for Constabulary, Ireland, *agreed to.*

11. £71,021, to complete the sum for Prisons, Ireland, *agreed to.*

12. £56,095, to complete the sum for Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Ireland.

After short Debate, Vote *agreed to* 73

13. £3,822, to complete the sum for Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum, Ireland, *agreed to.*

CLASS IV.

14. £499,792, to complete the sum for Public Education, Ireland, *agreed to.*

15. £605, to complete the sum for Endowed Schools Commissioners, Ireland.

After short Debate, Vote *agreed to* 74

16. £1,200, to complete the sum for National Gallery of Ireland.

After short Debate, Vote *agreed to* 77

17. £2,450, to complete the sum for Queen's Colleges, Ireland, *agreed to.*

[*August* 20.] Page

SUPPLY—*continued.*

CLASS VI.

18. £14,035, to complete the sum for Pauper Lunatics, Ireland.
After short Debate, Vote *agreed to* 78

19. £1,959, to complete the sum for Hospitals and Charities, Ireland, *agreed to.*

CLASS III.

20. £28,386, to complete the sum for Law Charges.
After Debate, Vote *agreed to.*

21. £3,945, to complete the sum for Crofters' Commission.
After short Debate, Vote *agreed to* 89

CLASS IV.

22. £3,155,589, for Public Education in England and Wales, including Expenses of the Education Office in London.
After short Debate, Vote *agreed to* 90

23. £361,122, to complete the sum for Science and Art Department.
After Debate, Vote *agreed to* 96

24. £80,279, to complete the sum for British Museum, *agreed to.*

25. £11,368 (including a Supplementary sum of £5,000), to complete the sum for National Gallery, *agreed to.*

26. £825, to complete the sum for National Portrait Gallery, *agreed to.*

27. £14,247, to complete the sum for Scientific Investigation, &c., *agreed to.*

28. £50,094, to complete the sum for Universities and Colleges, Great Britain, and Intermediate Education, Wales.
After short Debate, Vote *agreed to* 98

29. £5, to complete the sum for London University, *agreed to.*

30. £485,449, to complete the sum for Public Education, Scotland, *agreed to.*

31. £2,150, to complete the sum for National Gallery, &c., Scotland, *agreed to.*

CLASS V.

32. £201,235, to complete the sum for Diplomatic and Consular Services, *agreed to.*

33. £213, to complete the sum for Slave Trade Services, *agreed to* ... 99

34. £79,675 (including a Supplementary sum of £5,750), to complete the sum for Colonial Services, including South Africa.
After short Debate, Vote *agreed to* 100

35. £29,100, to complete the sum for Subsidies to Telegraph Companies, *agreed to.* 101

36. £45,000 (Supplementary), to complete the sum for Uganda, *agreed to.*

37. £35,000, to complete the sum for British Central Africa.
After short Debate, Vote *agreed to.*

[*August* 20.] *Page*

SUPPLY—*continued.*

CLASS VI.

38. £231,454, to complete the sum for Superannuations and Retired Allowances, *agreed to* 102

39. £4,300, to complete the sum for Merchant Seamen's Fund Pensions, *agreed to.*

40. £21,713, to complete the sum for Savings Banks and Friendly Societies Deficiency.

After short Debate, Vote *agreed to.*

41. £1,125, to complete the sum for Miscellaneous Charitable and other Allowances, Great Britain, *agreed to.*

CLASS VII.

42. £21,959, for the Salaries and other Expenses of the Temporary Commissions and Committees, including Special Inquiries.

After Debate, Vote *agreed to* 114

43. £1,991, to complete the sum for Miscellaneous Expenses, *agreed to.*

44. £15,000, to complete the sum for Diseases of Animals, *agreed to.*

45. £21,000, to complete the sum for Highlands and Islands of Scotland (Public Works and Communications).

After short Debate, Vote *agreed to* 115

46. £26,948 (including a Supplementary sum of £4,743), Repayment to the Local Loans Fund, *agreed to.*

47. £906, Repayments to the Civil Contingencies Fund, *agreed to.*

48. £1,000, to complete the sum for Hobart (Tasmania) Exhibition, *agreed to.*

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

49. £651,915, to complete the sum for Customs, *agreed to* ... 116

50. £1,345,539, to complete the sum for Inland Revenue.

After short Debate, Vote *agreed to.*

51. £5,287,785, to complete the sum for Post Office.

After Debate, Vote *agreed to* 121

52. £558,624, to complete the sum for Post Office Packet Service, *agreed to.*

53. £1,676,930, to complete the sum for Post Office Telegraphs, *agreed to.*

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1894-5.

54. £1,402,100, Victualling and Clothing for the Navy, *agreed to.*

55. £143,900, Medical Establishments and Services, *agreed to.*

56. £10,600, Martial Law, &c., *agreed to.*

57. £79,100, Educational Services, *agreed to.*

58. £61,600, Scientific Services, *agreed to.*

59. £205,800, Royal Naval Reserves, *agreed to.*

60. £1,383,200, Naval Armaments, *agreed to.*

61. £173,800, Miscellaneous Effective Services, *agreed to.*

62. £231,200, Admiralty Office.

[*August* 20.] Page

SUPPLY—*continued.*

After short Debate, Vote *agreed to* 122

63. £757,000, Half-Pay, Reserved, and Retired Pay, *agreed to.*

64. £990,400, Naval and Marine Pensions, Gratuities, and Compassionate Allowances, *agreed to.*

65. £312,600, Civil Pensions and Gratuities, *agreed to* 123

66. £60,300, Additional Naval Force for Service in Australasian Waters, *agreed to.*

Resolutions to be reported To-morrow.

SUPPLY—REPORT—

Order read for Report of Supply [18th August.]

Report deferred till To-morrow.

After short Debate,

SUPPLY—REPORT—

Order read for Report of Supply [17th August] 124

After short Debate, Report deferred till To-morrow.

WAYS AND MEANS,—*considered* in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Motion made, and Question proposed,

"That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, the sum of £27,795,151 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom,"—(*The Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again,"—(*Mr. Sexton.*)

After short Debate, Question put:—The Committee divided:—Ayes 31; Noes 54.—(Division List, No. 237) 126

Original Question again proposed.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do now leave the Chair,"—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

After short Debate, Question put:—The Committee divided:—Ayes 30; Noes 56.—(Division List, No. 238) 127

Original Question again proposed.

Motion made, and Question proposed,

"That £27,775,151 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom,"—(*Mr. Sexton.*)

After short Debate, Question put:—The Committee divided:—Ayes 33; Noes 53.—(Division List, No. 239) 131

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again,"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

The Committee divided:—Ayes 32; Noes 54.—(Division List, No. 240.

Original Question again proposed.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do now leave the Chair,"—(*Mr. Justin M'Carthy.*)

After Debate, Question put:—The Committee divided:—Ayes 32; Noes 53.—(Division List, No. 241) 137

WAYS AND MEANS—*continued.*

Original Question put.

Motion made, and Question proposed,

"That £27,785,151 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom,"—(*Mr. Herbert Lewis.*)

After Debate, Question put:—The Committee divided:—Ayes 32; Noes 53.—(Division List, No. 242) 146

Original Question again proposed 147

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again,"—(*Dr. Tanner.*)

After short Debate, Question put, and *agreed to* 148

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

LAND ACTS (IRELAND)—

Report from Select Committee, with Minutes of Evidence and an Appendix, brought up, and read.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 310.]

NAVY AND ARMY EXPENDITURE, 1892-3.

Resolution reported, and *agreed to*—[See Vol. 28, page 1598.]

Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th instant, Mr. Deputy Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

LORDS, TUESDAY, AUGUST 21.

Diseases of Animals Bill (No. 220)—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 149

Tramways (Ireland) Bill—Read 1ª; and to be printed. (No. 223.)

Canal Tolls and Charges Provisional Order (No. 6) (River Lee, &c.) Bill (No. 211)—Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed.

Building Societies (No. 2) Bill (No. 222)—Read 3ª (according to Order), with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

Statute Law Revision Bill [H.L.] **(No. 161)**—Commons Amendments considered (according to Order), and agreed to.

LAND ACTS (IRELAND)—

Message to the House of Commons for copy of the Report, &c. of the Select Committee on.

COMMONS, TUESDAY, AUGUST 21.

QUESTIONS.

CHURCH DISESTABLISHMENT IN SCOTLAND—Questions, Mr. Crombie, Mr. Hozier; Answers, The Secretary for Scotland (Sir G. Trevelyan).

SCART HELY VOTERS' LIST—Question, Mr. Webb; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley) 150

ALIEN IMMIGRATION—Questions, Colonel Howard Vincent, Mr. Tomlinson; Answers, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Bryce).

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

[*August* 21.] *Page*

The Late Sir Robert Sandeman—Questions, Mr. Macdona; Answers, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. H. H. Fowler) 152

Dublin Telegraphists' Special Allowances—Question, Mr. D. Sullivan; Answer, The Postmaster General (Mr. A. Morley) ... 153

Trawling in Bantry Bay—Question, Mr. Gilhooly; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley) 154

Wetherby Church Schools—Question, Mr. Talbot; Answer, The Vice President of the Council (Mr. Acland).

Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association—Question, Mr. Talbot; Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Shaw-Lefevre) 155

Thurso Slaughter Houses—Question, Dr. Clark; Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Sir G. Trevelyan) 156

Carroll, of Sligo—Question, Mr. P. A. M'Hugh; Answer, The Postmaster General (Mr. A. Morley).

The Governor of Borstal Convict Prison—Question, Viscount Cranborne; Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Asquith) 157

The Case of H. Bullinaria—Question, Viscount Cranborne; Answer, The Civil Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. E. Robertson) 158

Military Bands at Political Meetings—Question, Mr. D. Sullivan; Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Mr. Woodall).

North Behar Cadastral Survey—Question, Mr. Henniker Heaton; Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. H. H. Fowler) ... 159

General Post Office, Dublin—Questions, Colonel Nolan; Answers, The Postmaster General (Mr. A. Morley).

Channel Islands Mail Service—Questions, Mr. Pierpoint; Answers, The Postmaster General (Mr. A. Morley) 161

Holy Trinity National Schools, Preston—Question, Mr. Tomlinson; Answer, The Vice President of the Council (Mr. Acland) 162

The Barker Case at Aleppo—Question, Sir R. Temple; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir E. Grey).

Abbey School (Buckfast)—Question, Sir R. Temple; Answer, The Vice President of the Council (Mr. Acland) 163

Grants to Small Schools—Question, Sir R. Temple; Answer, The Vice President of the Council (Mr. Acland).

The Education Code—Questions, Sir R. Temple, Viscount Cranborne; Answers, The Vice President of the Council (Mr. Acland) ... 164

The Birr Scandal—Question, Mr. Webb; Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Mr. Woodall).

The Census—Question, Sir F. S. Powell; Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Shaw-Lefevre) 165

School Alterations—Question, Mr. Radcliffe Cooke; Answer, The Vice President of the Council (Mr. Acland).

Franchise Laws in the Transvaal—Questions, Mr. Tomlinson; Answers, The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. S. Buxton).

British Residents in the Transvaal—Question, Mr. Tomlinson; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. S. Buxton) 166

Cruelties in Cattle Traffic—Question, Mr. Everett; Answer, The Secretary to the Treasury (Sir J. T. Hibbert) 167

War between China and Japan—Questions, Mr. Hozier; Answers, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir E. Grey).

The Scotch Education Code—Question, Mr. Hozier; Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Sir G. Trevelyan) 168

The Galway Recorder—Question, Mr. Foley; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley).

[*August* 21.] Page

SCHOOL EXEMPTIONS—Question, Mr. Taylor; Answer, The Vice President of the Council (Mr. Acland).

THE MERCANTILE MARINE—Question, Mr. Buchanan; Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Bryce) 169

LABOUR CORRESPONDENCE IN NORTH WALES—Question, Mr. Lloyd-George; Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Bryce).

THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley) 170

ST. JOHN'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, WALTHAMSTOW—Question, Mr. A. O'Connor; Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Asquith).

HIRED WRITERS AT WHITEHALL—Question, Mr. Molloy; Answer, The Secretary to the Treasury (Sir J. T. Hibbert)... 171

THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS—Questions, Mr. Henniker Heaton; Answers, The Secretary to the Treasury (Sir J. T. Hibbert, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Mr. Woodall).

SCOTCH SUPPLY—Questions, Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Crombie, Mr. Hozier, Mr. Tomlinson; Answers, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir W. Harcourt) 172

IRISH LIGHT RAILWAYS—Questions, Mr. Ross, Mr. Sexton; Answers, The Secretary to the Treasury (Sir J. T. Hibbert) 173

TRADE WITH BRITISH COLONIES—Questions, Colonel Howard Vincent; Answers, The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. S. Buxton) 174

IRISH PRISON WARDERS—Question, Mr. Keir-Hardie; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley) 175

ACCIDENTS AT THE TOWER BRIDGE—Question, Mr. J. Rowlands; Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Bryce) 176

DISCHARGES FROM WOOLWICH GUN FACTORY—Question, Mr. Lough; Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Mr. Woodall).

THE EQUATORIAL PROVINCES—Question, Mr. Tomlinson; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir E. Grey) ... 177

TRADESMEN ON HER MAJESTY'S SHIPS—Question, Mr. Kearley; Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth).

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS—That they have agreed to 178

Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill.

Housing of Working Classes (Borrowing Powers) Bill.

Merchant Shipping Bill.

Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Bill.

Juries (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill.

Expiring Acts Continuance Bill.

Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, with Amendments.

MOTION.

THE ORDER OF BUSINESS—

Motion made, and Question proposed,

"That the Order of the Day, Supply [18th August] Report, be deferred until after the Order of the Day, Supply [17th August] Report,"—(*The Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

After short Debate, Motion *agreed to* 179

QUESTION.

CENSUS OF WELSH-SPEAKING POPULATION—Question, Mr. Lloyd-George; Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Shaw-Lefevre).

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

SUPPLY—REPORT—

Resolutions [20th August] reported.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1894-5.

Resolutions read a second time.

First Twenty-one Resolutions postponed.

Twenty-second Resolution,

"That a sum, not exceeding £3,155,589, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for Public Education in England and Wales, including Expenses of the Education Office in London,"

considered 180

After Debate, Question put, and *agreed to* 215

Twenty-third Resolution,

"That a sum, not exceeding £361,122, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Science and Art, and of the various Establishments connected therewith,"

considered.

After short Debate, Resolution *agreed to* 217

Twenty-fourth Resolution,

"That a sum, not exceeding £80,279, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for the Salaries and Expenses of the British Museum, including the amount required for the Natural History Museum,"

considered.

After short Debate, Resolution *agreed to.*

Twenty-fifth Resolution *agreed to.*

Twenty-sixth Resolution,

"That a sum, not exceeding £825, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for the Salaries and Expenses of the National Portrait Gallery,"

considered 218

After short Debate, Resolution *agreed to.*

Twenty-seventh Resolution *agreed to.*

Twenty-eighth Resolution,

"That a sum, not exceeding £50,094, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, in aid of the Expenses of certain Universities and Colleges in Great Britain, and of the Expenses under 'The Welsh Intermediate Education Act, 1889,'"

considered.

[*August* 21.] Page

SUPPLY—*continued.*

Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

After Debate, Question put :—The House divided :—Ayes 79 ; Noes 35.—(Division List, No. 243) 230

Twenty-ninth Resolution *agreed to.*

Thirtieth Resolution,

"That a sum, not exceeding £485,449, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for Public Education in Scotland,"

considered.

After Debate, Resolution *agreed to* 241

Thirty-first Resolution *agreed to.*

Subsequent Resolutions postponed.

Resolutions One to Thirteen further postponed.

Fourteenth Resolution,

"That a sum, not exceeding £499,792, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland,"

considered.

After Debate, Resolution *agreed to* 252

Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth, and Nineteenth Resolutions *agreed to.*

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the subsequent Resolutions to Resolution 51 be further postponed,"—(*Sir J. T. Hibbert.*)

After short Debate, Motion *agreed to* 254

Resolutions Twenty and Twenty-one, and Thirty-two to Fifty further postponed.

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

Fifty-first Resolution,

"That a sum, not exceeding £5,287,785, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Post Office Services, the Expenses of Post Office Savings Banks, and Government Annuities and Insurances, and the Collection of the Post Office Revenue,"

considered.

After Debate, Resolution *agreed to* 263

Fifty-second Resolution *agreed to.*

Fifty-third Resolution,

"That a sum, not exceeding £1,676,930, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for the Salaries and Working Expenses of the Post Office Telegraph Service,"

considered.

After short Debate, Resolution *agreed to* 265

Further consideration of Postponed Resolutions deferred till To-morrow.

SUPPLY—REPORT—

Resolutions [17th August] reported.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1894-5.

Resolutions read a second time.

[*August* 21.] Page

SUPPLY—*continued.*

First Resolution,

"That a sum, not exceeding £11,564, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for maintaining certain Harbours, Lighthouses, &c., under the Board of Trade,"

considered.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Debate be now adjourned,"—(*Mr. Dalziel*) 266

After short Debate, Question put:—The House divided:—Ayes 39; Noes 83.—(Division List, No. 244) 269

Resolution *agreed to.*

Resolutions Two, Three, Four, and Five postponed.

Sixth Resolution,

"That a sum, not exceeding £22,595, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices of the House of Lords,"

considered.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

After short Debate, Question put:—The House divided:—Ayes 76; Noes 45.—(Division List, No. 245) 275

Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth Resolutions *agreed to.*

Resolutions Ten and Eleven postponed.

Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth, and Eighteenth Resolutions *agreed to.*

Resolutions Nineteen and Twenty postponed.

Postponed Resolutions to be considered To-morrow.

SUPPLY—REPORT—

Resolutions [18th August] reported.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1894-5.

Resolutions read a second time.

First Two Resolutions postponed.

Third, Fourth, and Fifth Resolutions *agreed to.*

Sixth and Seventh Resolutions postponed.

Eighth Resolution *agreed to.*

Ninth Resolution postponed 276

Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth, and Seventeenth Resolutions *agreed to.*

Eighteenth Resolution postponed.

Nineteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-first, Twenty-second, Twenty-third, Twenty-fourth, Twenty-fifth, and Twenty-sixth Resolutions *agreed to.*

Twenty-seventh Resolution postponed.

Twenty-eighth Resolution *agreed to.*

Twenty-ninth Resolution postponed.

Remaining Resolutions *agreed to.*

Postponed Resolutions to be considered To-morrow.

[*August* 21.] *Page*

Diseases of Animals Bill (No. 348)—Lords Amendments to be considered forthwith; considered, and *agreed to.* [Special Entry.]

SUPPLY—REPORT—

Resolution [1st June] reported.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1894-5.

CLASS V.

"That a sum, not exceeding £50,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, as a Grant in Aid of Expenses connected with Uganda and neighbouring Districts."

Resolution *agreed to.*

Stipendiary Magistrates Bill—*Ordered* (*Mr. Storey, Mr. Samuel Evans, Mr. Lloyd-George, Sir Charles Dilke, Mr. Dodd, Mr. Gourley, Mr. John Wilson*:)—Bill presented, and read first time. [Bill 361.]

WAYS AND MEANS—

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year ending the 31st day of March 1895, the sum of £27,795,151 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom,"—(*The Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Resolution to be reported To-morrow.

Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th instant, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

COMMONS, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22.

NEW WRITS ISSUED—

For the Borough of Leicester, *v.* James Allanson Picton, esquire, Chiltern Hundreds 277

Borough of Leicester, *v.* Sir James Whitehead, baronet, Manor of Northstead.

QUESTIONS.

CHELSEA HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN—Question, Mr. J. Stuart; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. G. Russell).

PAUPER CHILDREN—Question, Mr. J. Stuart; Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Shaw-Lefevre).

GLASGOW CATHEDRAL—Question, Mr. Carvell Williams; Answer, The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. H. Gladstone) 278

LIVERPOOL POST OFFICE—Questions, Mr. Lawrence; Answers, The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. H. Gladstone).

THE BRITISH EAST AFRICA COMPANY—Questions, Mr. Lawrence; Answers, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir E. Grey) ... 279

TIPTON RIFLE RANGE—Questions, Mr. Lloyd; Answers, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Mr. Woodall) 280

JABEZ BALFOUR—Question, Mr. Cobb; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir E. Grey) 282

TRADESMEN'S LICENCES—Question, Mr. Combe; Answer, The Secretary to the Treasury (Sir J. T. Hibbert).

THE TRANSVAAL—Questions, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, Dr. Clark, Mr. Tomlinson; Answers, The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. S. Buxton).

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Building Societies (No. 2) Bill (No. 246)—
Lords Amendments to be considered forthwith 285
After short Debate Lords Amendments considered, and *agreed to.*

Local Government (Scotland) Bill (No. 337)—
Lords Amendments considered.
After Debate, Amendments *agreed to.*

SUPPLY—REPORT—
Postponed Resolutions [20th August] further considered 313

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1894-5.

Fifty-fourth Resolution,
"That a sum, not exceeding £1,402,100, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Expense of Victualling and Clothing for the Navy, including the cost of Victualling Establishments at Home and Abroad, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895,"
considered.
After short Debate, Resolution *agreed to* 314
Resolutions Fifty-five to Sixty-one *agreed to.*
Sixty-second Resolution,
"That a sum, not exceeding £231,200, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Expenses of the Admiralty Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895,"
considered.
After short Debate, Resolution *agreed to* 316
Sixty-third Resolution *agreed to.*
Sixty-fourth Resolution,
"That a sum, not exceeding £990,400, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Expense of Naval and Marine Pensions, Gratuities, and Compassionate Allowances, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895,"
considered.
After short Debate, Resolution *agreed to* 318
Sixty-fifth and Sixty-sixth Resolutions *agreed to.*

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1894 5.

CLASS II.

First Resolution,
"That a sum, not exceeding £24,674, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of the Registrar General of Births, &c. in England,"
considered 319
After Debate, Resolution *agreed to.* 324
Resolutions Two to Thirteen *agreed to.*
Resolutions Twenty and Twenty-one *agreed to.*

[*August* 22.] Page

SUPPLY—*continued.*

CLASS V.

Thirty-second Resolution,

"That a sum, not exceeding £201,235, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for the Expenses of Her Majesty's Embassies and Missions Abroad, and of the Consular Establishments Abroad, and other Expenditure chargeable on the Consular Vote,"

considered.

After Debate, Resolution *agreed to* 330

Thirty-third Resolution,

"That a sum, not exceeding £213, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for Expenses in connection with the Suppression of the Slave Trade, and the Expenses of the Maintenance of certain Liberated Africans."

considered.

After short Debate, Resolution *agreed to* 331

Thirty-fourth Resolution,

"That a sum, not exceeding £79,675 (including a Supplementary sum of £5,750), be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for similar Colonial Services, including Expenses incurred under 'New Pacific Islanders' Protection Act, 1875,' and certain Charges connected with South Africa,"

considered 332

After short Debate, Resolution *agreed to* 333

Thirty-fifth Resolution *agreed to.*

Thirty-sixth Resolution,

'That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £45,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, as a Grant in Aid of Expenses connected with Uganda and neighbouring Districts,"

considered.

After short Debate, Resolution *agreed to* 337

Thirty-seventh Resolution,

"That a sum, not exceeding £35,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, as a Grant in Aid of Expenses connected with the British Central African Protectorate,"

considered.

After short Debate, Resolution *agreed to.*

Resolutions Thirty-eight to Fifty *agreed to.*

SUPPLY—REPORT—

Postponed Resolutions [17th August] further considered.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1894-5.

CLASS I.

Resolutions Two to Five *agreed to.*

CLASS II.

Tenth Resolution,

"That a sum, not exceeding £40,696, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,"

considered.

After short Debate, Resolution *agreed to* 341

Resolutions Eleven, Nineteen, and Twenty *agreed to.*

SUPPLY—Report—

Postponed Resolutions [18th August] further considered.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1894-5.

Class II.

Resolutions One, Two, Six, Seven, Nine, and Eighteen *agreed to.*

Class III.

Twenty-seventh Resolution,

"That a sum, not exceeding £137,117, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for the Expense of the Maintenance of Juvenile Offenders in Reformatory, Industrial, and Day Industrial Schools in Great Britain, and of the Inspectors of Reformatories,"

considered.

After short Debate, Resolution *agreed to* 343

Twenty-ninth Resolution *agreed to.*

Railway and Canal Traffic Bill (No. 356)—Lords Amendment to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to.

Ways and Means—

Resolution [21st August] reported;

"That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year ending the 31st day of March, 1895, the sum of £27,795,151 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."

Resolution *agreed to:*—Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Mellor, The Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Sir John Hibbert.

Ordered, That leave be given to bring in a Bill to apply a sum, out of the Consolidated Fund, to the Service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, and to appropriate the Supplies granted in this Session of Parliament.

Bill presented, and read first time 344

LORDS, THURSDAY, AUGUST 23.

Judicial Business—

Ordered, That this House do meet on Tuesday the 13th day of November next for the purpose of hearing and determining Appeals and matters connected therewith, pursuant to the provisions of the "Appellate Jurisdiction Act, 1876"; and that during such meeting of the House leave be given to the Appeal Committee to meet 345

Railway and Canal Traffic Bill (No. 218)—Returned from the Commons with the Amendment agreed to.

Building Societies (No. 2) Bill (No. 222)—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

Local Government (Scotland) Bill (No. 212)—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to, with an Amendment.

Commons Amendment to Lords Amendments considered (on Motion), and agreed to.

COMMONS, THURSDAY, AUGUST 23.

QUESTIONS.

The Mala Real Portugueza Company—Question, Mr. Crombie; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir E. Grey).

Seizure of Fraudulently-Marked Chisels at Leith—Questions, Colonel Howard Vincent, Mr. Cremer, Mr. Macdona; Answers, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Bryce) 346

[*August* 23.]

Page

SHIPS' PROVISIONS—Question, Mr. Keir-Hardie; Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Bryce) 348

CATHOLICS IN THE ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY—Question, Mr. Kennedy; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley).

EXCISE SUMMONSES IN IRELAND—Question, Mr. A. O'Connor; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley) 349

PARLIAMENTARY EXPENDITURE ON COMMISSIONS AND RETURNS—Question, Mr. Naoroji; Answer, The Secretary to the Treasury (Sir J. T. Hibbert).

COMMITTALS FOR TRIAL AT WEST HAM—Question, Mr. Macdona; Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Asquith) ... 350

BALTIMORE FISHING INDUSTRY—Question, Mr. Gilhooly; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley).

CASTLETOWN BEREHAVEN HARBOUR—Question, Mr. Gilhooly; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley) 351

H.M.S "NORTHAMPTON"—Question, Mr. Gilhooly; Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth).

INQUIRY INTO INDIAN FINANCIAL EXPENDITURE—Question, Sir W. Wedderburn; Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. H. H. Fowler).

EXCHANGE COMPENSATION ALLOWANCES—Question, Sir W. Wedderburn; Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. H. H. Fowler).

MILITARY EXPENDITURE IN INDIA—Question, Sir W. Wedderburn; Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. H. H. Fowler) ... 352

STATIONERY CONTRACTS—Question, Mr. Macdonald; Answer, The Secretary to the Treasury (Sir J. T. Hibbert) 354

MARKET PRODUCE TRAFFIC ON THE GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY—Questions, Mr. Hugh Hoare, Mr. A. C. Morton; Answers, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Bryce).

TRADE BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND THE COLONIES — Questions, Colonel Howard Vincent; Answers, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Bryce) 355

INDIAN COAL MINES—Questions, Mr. Provand; Answers, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. H. H. Fowler).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD INSPECTORS—Questions, Mr. A. C. Morton, Mr. Hugh Hoare; Answers, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Shaw-Lefevre) 356

OBSTRUCTING THE POLICE AT CLERKENWELL—Questions, Mr. Keir-Hardie, Mr. J. Rowlands; Answers, The Under Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. George Russell) 358

NON-OBSERVANCE OF CATHOLIC HOLIDAYS IN THE ARMY—Question, Mr. Kennedy; Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Mr. Woodall) 359

INDIAN DUTIES ON SHEFFIELD GOODS—Question, Colonel Howard Vincent; Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. H. H. Fowler).

THE CASE OF BHAI JASMAIR SINGH—Question, Mr. A. C. Morton; Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. H. H. Fowler) ... 360

POLICE ON IRISH RAILWAY PLATFORMS—Questions, Mr. A. O'Connor, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Storey; Answers, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley) 361

THE BARROW DRAINAGE SCHEME—Questions, Mr. A. O'Connor; Answers, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley) 362

MR. DONALD MACRAE AND THE DEER FORESTS COMMISSION—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Sir G. Trevelyan).

INSTRUCTION IN THE IRISH LANGUAGE—Questions, Mr. Sexton; Answers, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley) 363

RESULT FEES FOR IRISH—Questions, Mr. Sexton; Answers, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley) 364

[*August* 23.] *Page*

RELATIVES ON THE MAGISTERIAL BENCH—Question, Mr. W. Abraham; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley) 365
ADMIRALTY TOWN ESTABLISHMENT—Question, Mr. Molloy; Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth).
SECOND DIVISION CLERKS IN THE ADMIRALTY—Question, Mr. Molloy; Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth) ... 366
PROSECUTIONS FOR DISCHARGING FIREARMS IN THE STREETS—Questions, Mr. Kennedy; Answers, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley).
THE ROYAL VICTORIA VICTUALLING YARD, DEPTFORD—Questions, Mr. Macdonald; Answers, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth) 367
CARDINAL LOGUE AND THE MIGRATION COMPANY—Questions, Mr. D. Sullivan, Mr. Sexton; Answers, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley) 368
CHINA AND JAPAN—Question, Sir R. Temple; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir E. Grey) 369
POST CARDS—Question, Major Jones; Answer, The Postmaster General (Mr. A. Morley)... 370
JOURNEYMEN BAKERS' HOURS OF LABOUR—Questions, Mr. Barrow, Mr. John Burns; Answers, The Under Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. George Russell).
FRANCHISE LAWS IN NATAL—Questions, Sir W. Wedderburn, Dr. Clark; Answers, The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. S. Buxton) 371
MERIALL'S CHARITY, SWANSCOMBE—Questions, Mr. Howell; Answers, The Secretary to the Treasury (Sir J. T. Hibbert).
MESSENGERS' HOLIDAYS—Question, Mr. Macdonald; Answer, The Secretary to the Treasury (Sir J. T. Hibbert) 372
EXPRESS LETTERS—Questions, Mr. Henniker Heaton; Answers, The Postmaster General (Mr. A. Morley) 373
THE NEW ESTATE DUTY—Questions, Mr. Bartley; Answers, The Secretary to the Treasury (Sir J. T. Hibbert).
THE BRITISH EAST AFRICA COMPANY—Questions, Mr. Lawrence, Mr. A. C. Morton, Sir W. Lawson, Mr. Storey, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, Mr. Tomlinson, Mr. Cremer, Sir C. W. Dilke; Answers, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir E. Grey) 374
DERELICT IN THE NORTH SEA—Questions, Mr. Macdona, Mr. Tomlinson, Colonel Howard Vincent; Answers, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Bryce) 378
IRISH WHISKY PERMITS—Questions, Mr. A. O'Connor, Sir W. Lawson; Answers, The Secretary to the Treasury (Sir J. T. Hibbert) ... 379
IRISH BEER BARRELS—Question, Mr. A. O'Connor; Answer, The Secretary to the Treasury (Sir J. T. Hibbert) 380
THE LIBERATOR BUILDING SOCIETY—Question, Mr. Cremer; Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Bryce).
PATENTS—Question, Colonel Howard Vincent; Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Bryce) 382
NORTH TYRONE REGISTER—Questions, Lord F. Hamilton, Mr. Sexton; Answers, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley).
POLICE PROTECTION IN IRELAND—Questions, Mr. Knox; Answers, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley) 384
THE CAVAN CONSTABULARY—Question, Mr. Knox; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley).
BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY'S DEBENTURES—Question, Mr. Knox; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. S. Buxton) 385
BELFAST TELEGRAPH MESSENGERS—Question, Mr. Knox; Answer, The Postmaster General (Mr. A. Morley).

THIRD CLASS CARRIAGES ON IRISH MAIL TRAINS—Question, Mr. Knox; Answer, The Postmaster General (Mr. A. Morley).
PORTRUSH LETTER DELIVERY—Question, Mr. J. O'Connor; Answer, The Postmaster General (Mr. A. Morley) 386
THE CASE OF THE "KOWSHING"—Question, Mr. Bartley; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir E. Grey).
THE MOVEABLE DWELLINGS BILL—Question, Sir C. W. Dilke; Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Shaw-Lefevre) ... 387
CUSTOMS STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT—Question, Mr. Macdonald; Answer, The Secretary to the Treasury (Sir J. T. Hibbert).

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS—

That they have agreed to,—

Canal Tolls and Charges Provisional Order (No. 6) (River Lee, &c.) Bill.

Amendments to—

Statute Law Revision Bill [*Lords*], without Amendment.

Land Acts (Ireland),—That they do request that this House will be pleased to communicate to their Lordships a Copy of the Report, &c., of the Select Committee appointed by this House in the present Session of Parliament on Land Acts (Ireland).

Lords Message considered:—Printed Copy to be communicated ... 388

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do meet To-morrow at Twelve of the clock,"—(*Mr. J. Morley.*)

Question put, and *agreed to.*

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill—

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

After Debate, Motion *agreed to* 415

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th instant, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

COMMONS, FRIDAY, AUGUST 24.

QUESTIONS.

THE ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY—Question, Mr. Kennedy; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley).
OFFENCES ON THE HIGH SEAS—Question, Mr. Tankerville Chamberlayne; Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Asquith) 416
FLOATING DERELICTS—Question, Mr. Macdona; Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Bryce) 417
PRIVATE POST CARDS—Questions, Mr. Benson, Mr. Henniker Heaton; Answers, The Postmaster General (Mr. A. Morley).

Wages on the Crown Farm at Shimpling—Questions, Mr. Everett, Mr. Weir, Mr. A. C. Morton; Answers, The Secretary to the Treasury (Sir J. T. Hibbert) 419

The Scotch Coal Strike—Question, Mr. Paul; Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Bryce) 420

The War in Corea—Questions, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; Answers, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir E. Grey).

German Chisels—Questions, Colonel Howard Vincent; Answers, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Bryce) 421

Pauper Schools Inquiry—Question, Sir C. W. Dilke; Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Shaw-Lefevre).

Board School Lessons on Drink—Question, Sir W. Lawson; Answer, The Vice President of the Council (Mr. Acland) 422

H.M.S. "Benbow"—Question, Mr. Macdona; Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth).

Trade Arrangements with the Colonies—Question, Sir C. W. Dilke; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir E. Grey) 423

A Question of Procedure—Questions, Mr. A. C. Morton, Mr. Weir; Answers, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley), Mr. Speaker.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

—o—

Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill—

Bill considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Bill reported, without Amendment; to be read the third time To-morrow... 424

Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th instant, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

LORDS, SATURDAY, AUGUST 25.

Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill—

Brought from the Commons; Read 1ª; Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) read 2ª; Committee negatived; Bill read 3ª, and passed.

House adjourned during pleasure.

House resumed.

PROROGATION OF THE PARLIAMENT—

The Lords Commissioners—namely, The Lord Chancellor (Lord Herschell); The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (The Earl of Kimberley); The Lord Steward of the Household (The Marquess of Breadalbane); The Lord Chamberlain of the Household (Lord Carrington); The Treasurer of the Household (The Earl of Chesterfield)—being in their Robes, and seated on a Form placed between the Throne and the Woolsack, commanded the Yeoman Usher of the Black Rod (Captain Butler) to let the Commons know, "The Lords Commissioners desire their immediate Attendance in this House to hear the Commission read."

Who being at the Bar, with their Speaker;—

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

[*August* 25.] *Page*

COMMISSION—

The following Bills received the Royal Assent :—
Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) 425
Uniforms.
Chimney Sweepers.
Quarries
Copyhold (Consolidation).
Coal Mines (Check Weigher).
Crown Lands.
Heritable Securities (Scotland).
Statute Law Revision.
Equalisation of Rates (London).
Housing of the Working Classes (Borrowing Powers).
Merchant Shipping.
Congested Districts Board (Ireland).
Juries (Ireland) Acts Amendment.
Expiring Laws Continuance.
Railway and Canal Traffic.
Diseases of Animals.
Local Government (Scotland).
Building Societies (No. 2).
Canal Tolls and Charges Provisional Order (No. 4) (Birmingham Canal).
Canal Tolls and Charges Provisional Order (No. 6) (River Lee, &c.).
Canal Tolls and Charges Provisional Order (No. 10) (Lagan, &c., Canals).

After which,

THE LORD CHANCELLOR said—"We are commanded to deliver to you Her Majesty's Speech in Her Majesty's own words."

" *My Lords, and Gentlemen,*

It affords me sensible gratification to be able to dismiss you at the end of a Session which has been little less than a prolongation of the previous one ; and it gives me pleasure to reflect that your labours, if they have been exhausting, have also been fruitful.

I am confident that you will share in the joy with which I and my people have welcomed the birth of an Heir in the third generation to my Throne ; an event not merely propitious, but unprecedented in the history of this country.

My relations with Foreign Powers continue to be friendly and peaceful.

It is, however, matter for regret that a variety of questions relating to Africa between my Government and that of the French Republic still remain unsettled.

It is my wish that these should be arranged without unnecessary delay ; and I am engaged in friendly negotiations with that object.

The state of affairs in Siam continues to engage my earnest attention. The welfare of that Kingdom, in which the interests of British trade are so preponderating, cannot be a matter of indifference to my Government. I trust that the final settlement of questions arising out of the recent Treaty between France and Siam may not much longer be delayed, and, in the meantime, I have directed Commissioners, in conjunction with those of France, to lay down on the spot the proper limits of a neutral region in the neighbourhood of the Mekong, which shall separate my dominions from those of the French Republic.

In concert with the President of the United States I have taken the steps necessary to give effect to the Award of the Tribunal of Arbitration on the question of the Seal Fisheries in the Behring Sea ; and I have assented to an Act of Parliament for this purpose. A similar Act has been passed by the Congress of the United States.

Her Majesty's Speech—*continued.*

The Governments of the two countries are also in communication with the principal foreign Powers with the view of obtaining their adhesion to the Regulations prescribed by the Award.

I regret to state that war has broken out between the Empires of China and Japan. After endeavouring, in concert with Russia and with other Powers, to prevent the outbreak of hostilities, I have taken steps to preserve my strict neutrality between the contending parties.

I have concluded a Treaty with the Emperor of Japan for the regulation of commercial intercourse between that country and the United Kingdom.

A conference was held at Ottawa in the month of June last, at which Representatives of the Imperial Government, the Dominion of Canada, the Cape, and the Australasian Colonies met to consider questions relating to Intercolonial Tariffs and Communications.

I have learnt with satisfaction that the proceedings of the Conference were of a character to strengthen the union of the Colonies concerned, both among themselves and with the mother-country.

" *Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

I thank you for the liberal supplies which you have provided for the requirements of the Public Service.

Though I lament the necessity for increasing the burden of taxation, it had become indispensable for the security of my Empire to increase my naval strength.

I trust that the alterations which you have made in the fiscal system of the country, and to which the greatest part of this Session has been necessarily devoted, will have the effect of materially alleviating that portion of the burden which falls upon the less wealthy classes of the population, and may redound to the contentment and prosperity of the nation at large.

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

While the general tranquillity of Ireland has been maintained in a remarkable degree, certain social and administrative difficulties still subsist, which continue to engage the earnest attention of my Government.

I have given my ready assent to the Bills which, notwithstanding the shortness of the Session, you have been able to consider and mature.

The measure dealing with the system of Local Government in Scotland will, I doubt not, tend to reorganise that system on a more popular and more efficient basis.

You have also passed a beneficial measure for the better adjustment of the Rates levied by the several Local Authorities in London.

A large number of Bills of substantial importance have been passed, among which I would mention that for the amendment of the law relating to Railway Rates and Charges, and that for the better regulation of Building Societies.

In bidding you farewell, I pray that the blessing of Providence may rest upon all your labours."

Then a Commission for proroguing the Parliament was read.

After which,

The LORD CHANCELLOR said—

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

By virtue of Her Majesty's Commission, under the Great Seal, to us and other Lords directed, and now read, we do, in Her Majesty's Name, and in obedience to Her Commands, prorogue this Parliament to Saturday the Tenth day of November next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Saturday the Tenth day of November next.

COMMONS, SATURDAY, AUGUST 25.

New Writ Issued—
For Kilkenny County (South Division), *v.* Patrick Alexander Chance, esquire, Chiltern Hundreds,—(*Mr. O'Driscoll*) 427

[*August* 25.] *Page*

Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill—Read the third time, and passed ... 428

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS—

That they have agreed to,—

Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill :—

Amendment to Amendments to—

Local Government (Scotland) Bill, without Amendment.

PROROGATION OF THE PARLIAMENT—

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners ;—

The House went ; and the Royal Assent was given to several Bills.—[See page 425.]

And afterwards Her Majesty's Most Gracious Speech was delivered to both Houses of Parliament by the LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR (in pursuance of Her Majesty's Commands).

Then a Commission for proroguing the Parliament was read.

After which,

THE LORD CHANCELLOR said—

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An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(*Authorised Edition*)

IN THE

THIRD SESSION OF THE *TWENTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT* OF
THE UNITED KINGDOM OF *GREAT BRITAIN* AND *IRELAND*
APPOINTED TO MEET 12 MARCH 1894, IN THE FIFTY-SEVENTH YEAR OF
THE REIGN OF

HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA.

EIGHTH VOLUME OF SESSION 1894.

HOUSE OF LORDS,

Monday, 20th August 1894.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

Moved—

"That the Lord Balfour of Burleigh do take the Chair this day in Committee of the Whole House in the absence of the Chairman of Committees."—(*The Earl of Kimberley.*)

Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Ordered that Standing Order No. XXXIX. be suspended for the remainder of the Session.

UGANDA.

MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS.

*LORD STANMORE moved for a copy of any instructions which may have been sent to Her Majesty's Commissioner in Uganda with respect to the future administration of that country. He feared that in again calling attention to Uganda he might share the fate of those who persistently dwelt upon one topic to the annoyance of others; but as they were now so near the close of the Session, it was not unreasonable to ask for further information as to the course Her Majesty's Government intended to pursue in South Africa. Uganda, from its geographical position and other circumstances, was destined to play an important part in the great drama which was just commencing in that region. No doubt its importance might be exaggerated. Those who felt deeply upon any subject were naturally apt to commit that error; but, at all events, their Lordships and every Member of Her Majesty's Government would admit that there was one thing the importance of which could not be overrated. It was this: that when this country, after grave consideration and not unreasonable doubt, had determined to take a course involving great responsibilities and attended with serious difficulties, it should not fail in the accomplishment of what it had undertaken. It was, therefore, not unnatural that Her Majesty's Government should be asked to state whether they had taken, or proposed to take, steps which would prevent such failure. His object in putting down the Motion was partly to induce a discussion, which he was sorry to see was not likely to take place in the then condition of the House, and partly because he thought it was not impossible that the noble Lord the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs might consider that the production of instructions would be the most convenient, as it would be the most satisfactory, way of dealing with the matter. If, however, that were inconvenient, he would not, of course, press Her Majesty's Government on that point. But even if the noble Lord were unable to lay the Despatches upon the Table, he would, probably, have no difficulty in answering two questions of which private notice had been given him. The first related to transport. Among the difficulties on that head none were more serious than those arising from the absence of proper communications between Uganda and the coast. Many whose opinion was of value feared that Her Majesty's Government were not fully aware of the vital importance of that difficulty; and he had, therefore, seen with great pleasure the letter from the President of the Council which appeared in the newspapers a few days ago stating that the project for the construction of a railway for at least a portion of the distance from the coast to Uganda had not been altogether abandoned, and that a railway might still be made—in short, that the question was not to be settled, as too many questions were, by never coming to a final decision upon them at all. It would probably be indiscreet to ask his noble Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Government had yet made up its mind on the question, or when it was likely to do so. But he would remind the Government that while we were considering, our neighbours in that region were working, and that if once a trade route partly by road and partly by railway were established through German East African territory our difficulties in the administration of Uganda would be greatly increased by loss of trade and the consequent loss of revenue, and the loss—besides the difficulty of furnishing ourselves with supplies and reinforcements—of position and influence which would naturally result therefrom. The House would also be glad to know whether it was intended to take any steps to improve the existing means of communication between the Victoria Nyanza and the sea? If the fact that a railway system was still under consideration were made a reason for not commencing in earnest the construction of a road, and if, after all, the decision should be that the railway was not to be made, he would remind the Government that we should then be in a worse position than if the railway had been absolutely set aside from the first, and we had vigorously set ourselves to the construction of the road. The other question had reference to the administration of Uganda itself. It was currently reported, and he had heard it from a source not generally misinformed, that Her Majesty's Government intended to appoint as Commissioner in Uganda someone who had had no previous connection with East African affairs, selected from the Indian Civil Service. Although, of course, the fact, if it were the fact, that ignorance of Africa was deemed an indispensable qualification might be represented under a ludicrous aspect, he was by no means sure that such a course was not the best that could be pursued. He could quite understand that Her Majesty's Government were unwilling that the Commissioner in Uganda should be mixed up with any of the squabbles which had recently taken place, or parties which had been formed in that country, but he doubted whether it was from the Indian Civil Service that the Commissioner should be appointed. That was unquestionably a noble Service, abounding with men of first-class ability and experience; but they would have to pay a competent experienced official from that Service a salary which Uganda could ill afford; whilst if, on the other hand, a man of less experience were appointed, there was danger that he might possibly be bound by the trammels of previous routine, and might attempt to fix on a country in Africa inapplicable conditions to which he had been accustomed in India. But his chief reason for doubt in the matter was the probability of friction between a civilian Commissioner and whoever might be at the head of the military force in Uganda. The time had scarcely arrived when the civil and military work could be separated without impairing the unity of purpose and promptness of decision so essentially necessary where a handful of Europeans were placed in control of a barbarous or semi-civilised race. It would therefore, he thought, be better that a military officer should be appointed who was well versed in what was known in India as "political" work. These two questions suggested a third : What was the strength and constitution of the military force already in Uganda ; and whether there was any intention of enlarging it ? He had not been able to obtain information on that point. He believed the force to be weak to meet emergencies. He trusted such emergencies would not arise. Still, in dealing with a suspicious and half-civilised people they were apt to occur when least expected. He hoped he had not exceeded the bounds of legitimate inquiry in putting these questions to the Government.

Moved,

"That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty for a copy of any instructions which may have been sent to Her Majesty's Commissioner in Uganda with respect to the future administration of that country."—(*The Lord Stanmore.*)

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Earl of KIMBERLEY): My Lords, I am quite prepared to answer the questions, including the last one, of which notice was not given, that have been put to me by my noble Friend. We are at present engaged in the organisation of an administrative staff, in which we have made considerable progress. Estimates are now before the other House for providing the necessary funds, and already several officers have been nominated to take part in the administration, and more appointments will follow. With regard to the transport service, the noble Lord will be glad to hear that we are organising a monthly transport service to Uganda, and also that we are about to send out a steamer and some launches for service on the lake. With regard to his inquiry as to what we are doing in the matter of roads, I would point out that it is very difficult for us to undertake any considerable works of that sort on account of the uncertainty of the position we occupy with regard to the East Africa Company. Until we come to terms with them it will be difficult for us to embark on any considerable works of that kind, even if they were thought desirable. At present we have not been able to come to terms with the Company, because their demands upon us have been larger than we have thought we should be warranted in admitting. As to the rumour that there was to be a new officer appointed to the chief position in Uganda, we have not at present any intention of replacing Colonel Colvile, as he has done most excellent service, and the Government has great confidence in his energy and discretion. I say this because there may come a time when it would be desirable to place the administration in the hands of a Civil Commissioner. This is the first time I have myself heard the East India Service mentioned in connection with this matter It is not a question as to which Service the officer should be taken from, but how an officer with the best qualifications in all respects can be found to fill this important appointment. I quite agree with the noble Lord that it may not be necessary to offer a large salary. With regard to his last point, I can tell him only what was the condition of affairs when we last heard from Colonel Colvile. I believe he then had a force of Soudanese—something like 800 or 1,000 effective men, and in our opinion that force should be increased to 1,200. That number, so far as we can ascertain, will be quite sufficient for all purposes. After the excellent services these troops rendered in the war against Unyoro, I am quite sure that the discipline they showed and their well-known courage should give us every confidence in the support they will give the Government whenever they may be again called upon in any emergency. The natives themselves came forward in numbers, showed great courage, and were of much assistance in bringing the war to a successful conclusion. In order to further strengthen our position there, we sent out a large quantity of war stores and ammunition, so that Colonel Colvile will find himself amply supplied with everything necessary and in quite sufficient strength for any emergency. I have every confidence that those materials will be of great use hereafter in strengthening our position and securing the safety of the country. My noble Friend will therefore see the Government have not neglected that very important branch of the administration, and I hope that Colonel Colvile will find himself in a position quite strong enough to meet any occasion on which he may find himself compelled to employ a military force. With regard to the last question put to me by my noble Friend, I am, as he anticipates, not at present in a position to place Papers on the Table of the House.

Motion (by leave of the House) withdrawn.

BUILDING SOCIETIES (No. 2) BILL. (No. 208.)

REPORT.

Amendments reported (according to Order).

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord HERSCHELL): My Lords, I have only to propose at this stage one Amendment of some little importance beyond verbal ones. The 13th clause of the Bill provides that Societies in calculating the amount they are entitled to borrow shall not take into account sums secured on properties the payment in respect of which have been 12 months in arrear, or properties of which the Societies have been 12 months in possession, at the date of the last account. The clause provides that the Bill shall not come into operation until the expiration of two years after the passing of the Act. Representations have been made to me in favour of extending that period to three years, but I am certainly not prepared to acquiesce in that proposition *simpliciter*. If the policy laid down in the clause is the right one to pursue, then I do not see that it will be expedient to extend the time beyond the period of two years, allowing the Societies to go on for a longer time, whatever the term might be, borrowing upon security of properties in the circumstances I have mentioned. Indeed, if the policy of the clause be right I do not think it is easy to justify deferring its operation even for two years, as regards properties which fall into arrear or come into possession after the passing of this Act. But it seems to me it would be an infringement on the clause altogether if its operation were deferred for three years instead of two as regards old properties or those in arrear or in possession at the passing of this Act, allowing at the time the section to operate immediately as regards properties which have come into possession 12 months before the passing of the Act. The Amendment I propose, therefore, is to insert at the end of the clause the following limitation:—

"So far as regards any amount secured either on property the payments for which have been for 12 months in arrears or property of which the Societies have been in possession for 12 months before the date of the last account."

Amendment agreed to.

Verbal Amendments.

Bill to be read 3^a To-morrow; and Bill to be printed, as amended. (No. 222.)

DISEASES OF ANIMALS BILL.—(No. 220.)

SECOND READING.

Order of the Day for the Second Reading, read.

THE EARL OF CHESTERFIELD: My Lords, this is a Bill to consolidate the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts, 1878 and 1893. It has been considered by a Joint Committee of Lords and Commons, and I hope your Lordships will now give it a Second Reading.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*The Earl of Chesterfield.*)

Motion agreed to: Bill read 2^a accordingly; and (Standing Order No. XXXIX having been suspended) committed to a Committee of the Whole House forthwith.

Drafting and verbal Amendments.

Standing Committee negatived.

Amendments reported; Bill read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

CROWN LANDS BILL.—(No. 199.)

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

HERITABLE SECURITIES (SCOTLAND) BILL.—(No. 202.)

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

CANAL TOLLS AND CHARGES PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 4) (BIRMINGHAM CANAL) BILL.—(No. 198.)

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

CANAL TOLLS AND CHARGES PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 10) (LAGAN, &c. CANALS) BILL.—(No. 190.)

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

STATUTE LAW REVISION BILL [H.L.]. (No. 161.)

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments: The said Amendments to be considered To-morrow.

CANAL TOLLS AND CHARGES PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 6) (RIVER LEE, &c.) BILL.—(No. 211.)

House in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª To-morrow.

EQUALISATION OF RATES (LONDON) BILL.—(No. 207.)

Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES (BORROWING POWERS) BILL.—(No. 209.)

Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed.

MERCHANT SHIPPING BILL.—(No. 204.)

Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed.

CONGESTED DISTRICT BOARD (IRELAND) BILL.—(No. 215.)

House in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived; Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 3ª, and passed.

JURIES (IRELAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.—(No. 216.)

House in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived; Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 3ª, and passed.

EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL (No. 217.)

House in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived: Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 3ª, and passed.

RAILWAY AND CANAL TRAFFIC BILL. (No. 218.)

House in Committee (according to Order): An Amendment made: Standing Committee negatived: Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Amendment reported; Bill read 3ª, with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

House adjourned at five minutes past Five o'clock till To-morrow, a quarter past Four o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

Monday, 20th August 1894.

QUESTIONS.

HEREFORDSHIRE CHARITIES.

MR. DODD (Essex, Maldon): I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he has had his attention called to a new scheme for Jarvis's Charity, in the parishes of Stanton-upon-Wye, Letton, and Bredwardine, in Herefordshire, which proposes to divide that Charity, and to assign £49,000, or thereabouts, to a new foundation, to be called "The Herefordshire Endowment," for a county or middle-class school, leaving about £31,000 to be administered as a parochial charity in the places named; if so, whether this plan will oust the Parish Councils or meetings of those parishes from getting any, or the same, right of management under the new Local Government Act which they would have had of the £49,000 if there had been no new scheme; and if he is aware that the original Charity was, by the will of the founder Jarvis, who died in 1793, to be administered for the benefit of the poor of the above parishes; and, if so, whether he will lay the Scheme on the Table of this House to enable its opinion to be expressed on the proposed application of the funds, and delay the operation of the Scheme until after the coming into operation of the new Local Government Act, so that the new Local Bodies may, at any rate, express their views on the new Scheme, dealing with the Charity in a way at variance with the founder's will?

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (Mr. ACLAND, York, W.R., Rotherham): I have recently approved a Scheme for the above Charity, under the Endowed Schools Acts, by which, after making due provision for all the charitable and educational objects to which the income of the endowment has been hitherto applied, a sum of £14,000 (not £49,000) is formed into a separate foundation, under the name of "The Herefordshire Educational Endowment," to be dealt with by a future Scheme for higher education in Herefordshire, and in the meantime to be administered by a Joint Committee on the lines of the Joint Committees appointed under the Welsh Intermediate Education Act, which will prepare and submit the proposed Scheme for the consideration of the Charity Commissioners. With regard to the residue, Schemes framed under the Endowed Schools Acts are not affected by the Local Government Act of 1894, but the Scheme makes due provision for the election of representative Governors by the Parish Councils of the three parishes affected. I am aware that George Jarvis left the property to trustees, for certain charitable objects in connection with the poor of the three parishes. The Scheme can only be laid before Parliament in the manner provided by Section 13 of the Endowed Schools Act of 1873.

THE BALLOT AT PARISH COUNCILS AND MEETINGS.

MR. COBB (Warwick, S.E., Rugby): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, in framing the Regulations under The Local Government Act, 1894, he will pay special attention to the importance of providing that ballots, either for the election of Parish Councils or to decide questions arising at parish meetings, shall be taken at the least possible cost; whether he is aware that any such expense as that relating to a County Council election would tend to make most important portions of the Act a dead letter, and would in many parishes exhaust the whole of the rating powers for the then current year; whether he is aware that ballots in rural parishes of upwards of 3,000 inhabitants have been taken at an expense, including everything, of less than £3, and that this has mainly resulted from the appointment of a local returning officer, who has carried out the election for a very trifling fee, or even for no fee at all; whether he is aware that if existing paid officials are appointed Returning Officers, and paid according to the existing rates, the absolutely requisite economy cannot be carried out; and whether he will, either by fixing a scale by the Regulations or by giving instructions to the County Councils, secure that all ballots under the Act shall be carried out at a very trifling expense?

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. SHAW-LEFEVRE, Bradford, Central): The Local Government Board in framing their Regulations as to polls at elections of Parish Councillors and polls consequent on parish meetings, will be desirous of not imposing any duties which can be avoided, so that there may be no unnecessary expense. The scale of expenses as regards the elections will be prescribed by the County Council. If the services of suitable persons as presiding officers and clerks can be obtained without remuneration or at a nominal fee as suggested, it would, of course, materially diminish the expenses.

MR. STOREY: Might it not do some good if a special circular were addressed to the County Council on the point?

*MR. SHAW-LEFEVRE: I think that point is worthy of consideration.

RADWAY SCHOOL, WARWICKSHIRE.

MR. COBB: I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he will inquire from the correspondent of the Radway School, in Warwickshire, how long it has been closed, and when it will be reopened; and whether he can state what is the maximum length which is recognised by the Department as proper for the summer holidays at an elementary school in a rural district?

MR. ACLAND: I will make the inquiry suggested by the hon. Member. The length of holidays given at a public elementary school rests in the discretion of the managers, the only condition laid down by the Department being that the school must meet at least 400 times in the school year.

CATHOLICS IN THE ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.

MR. D. SULLIVAN (Westmeath, S.): On behalf of the hon. Member for North Louth, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will inquire whether, in the County Down Royal Irish Constabulary, Catholics secure their fair share of promotion; is it the case that the County Inspector and three out of the four District Inspectors are Freemasons, and that of the 14 acting sergeants 10 are Freemasons; and whether this exercises any effect on the advancement of Catholics in the Force?

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. J. MORLEY, Newcastle-upon-Tyne): I am informed by the Inspector General that religion is not, and never has been, an element for consideration in the matter of qualification for promotion in the Constabulary. The principles which are laid down for the guidance of County Inspectors in making their selections for promotion are—(1) efficiency in the performance of duty, (2) steadiness of conduct, (3) ability to write Reports, (4) physical fitness, (5) aptitude for command, and (6) length of service. Of the eight promotions made to the rank of acting sergeant during the past 12 months in the County Down, five men were Protestants and three were Catholics, and of the 14 men of that rank now serving in the county, nine are Protestants and five Catholics. The Inspector General has no official knowledge as to whether the officers and men now serving do or do not belong to the Society of Freemasons, and in this connection I may remind my hon. Friend that the oath provided by Section 17 of the 6 Will. IV., c. 13, to be taken by all persons entering the Constabulary specifically exempts that Society from the prohibition placed upon members of the Force. The Inspector General is assured that the fact that a man may be a Freemason exercises no effect whatever on his advancement.

MR. KENNEDY (Kildare, N.): How is it that every sergeant in the Royal Irish Constabulary is a Protestant?

MR. J. MORLEY: That is not the case.

MR. SEXTON (Kerry, N.): May I ask whether the Society of Freemasons in Ireland is a secret society; and, if so, whether it is the only secret society of which a member of the Royal Irish Constabulary can be a member?

MR. J. MORLEY: I suppose that in Ireland as elsewhere it is a secret society; but I really do not know anything more about it.

PRESBYTERIANS IN THE ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the number of men at present serving in the Royal Irish Constabulary who are registered as Presbyterians, and how many of these are quartered at stations where no Presbyterian places of worship is within reach; and whether he can also state the respective numbers of Episcopalian and Presbyterian Head Constables who have been promoted to the rank of District Inspector during the past three years?

MR. J. MORLEY: The number of Presbyterians in the Constabulary on January 1 last (which is the most recent information upon the subject now in possession) was as follows:—Head constables, 10; sergeants, 103; acting sergeants, 30; constables, 425; total, 568. It is a rule of the Service that a man shall not, if it can be avoided, be kept at a remote station where he is not within a reasonable distance of his place of worship longer than 12 months, and officers are instructed to call attention to such cases in order that any disadvantage under which individual policemen might labour in this matter might be remedied by removal to some other locality. The Inspector General is not aware that this rule has been infringed in any case; but if it should be so, the case would receive attention upon its being made known. Within the last three years four Protestant head constables have been promoted to the rank of District Inspector. Of these one was a Presbyterian and the other three were Protestants of other denominations.

DOG LICENCE FINES IN SCOTLAND.

MR. PAUL (Edinburgh, S.): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether it is within his knowledge that there exists in the burgh of Ayr a practice on the part of the Procurator Fiscal, in connection with prosecutions arising out of the Dog-Muzzling Order now in force there, after service of a summons, and before the hearing of the case in open Court, of writing a letter to the accused informing him, or her, that it will not be necessary to attend the Court if a certain sum of money is previously sent him, and then, on payment of such sum being made, accepting it for penalty and expenses, and dropping the case, but refusing an account of the money; whether the practice referred to is a recognised one; and, if not, whether it will be discontinued; and whether he will call for an account of the money so exacted and its application?

***THE LORD ADVOCATE** (Mr. J. B. BALFOUR, Clackmannan, &c.): Upon inquiry I find that the statement in the first paragraph of the question is substantially correct, and that more than one case of the kind has recently accurred. The practice appears to require explanation, and I am informed that in at least one other place where the Muzzling Order is in force, a fine of 2s. 6d. is the penalty imposed, and no expenses are charged. I propose to bring the matter under the notice of the Provost of Ayr, and to ask him whether an account of the money paid in name of expenses, and of its application since the Muzzling Order came into operation, can be supplied.

THE ERASMUS SMITH ENDOWMENT.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland is he aware that the Trustees of the Erasmus Smith Endowment do not know whether they are fulfilling any part whatever of the one essential and primary obligation under which alone they have received the endowment—namely, to give free intermediate and University education to all the children of all the tenants on all the Irish estates of Erasmus Smith, and to 20 other poor children within two English miles of his schools at Galway, Drogheda, and Tipperary; whether, if the Protestant Judicial Commissioner refuses to sign a Draft Scheme, the endowment will remain in exclusively Protestant hands, as it has remained during the last 225 years; and whether, in view of the fact that the Governors of the Erasmus Smith Schools put before the Educational Endowments (Ireland) Commissioners in 1886 a Draft Scheme containing a Conscience Clause, which exempted Catholic pupils attending the Erasmus Smith Schools from receiving Protestant instructions, he can take any steps to a Scheme being agreed to under which, if the endowments are vested in Catholics, the Protestants may be protected by a similar Conscience Clause?

MR. J. MORLEY: It appears from the Reports of the successive Commissions which have inquired into the case of the Erasmus Smith Endowments that the education which the Governors are under an obligation to provide is subject to religious and denominational conditions and restrictions which prevent Roman Catholic pupils from availing themselves of it. It is a question upon which the Executive Government has no means of forming an opinion how far these religious restrictions and conditions must prevail, or must be regarded as essential and primary, in order to give effect to the intention of the founder. If the Judicial Commissioners under the Educational Endowments Act of 1885 do not concur in signing a Scheme, the endowments will continue to be administered in accordance with the existing Charters and Statutes and the Rules framed by Erasmus Smith in his lifetime, until altered by lawful authority such as an Act of Parliament, Charter, or Decree of the Court of Chancery. The Executive Government has no authority to interfere with the Judicial Commissioners in the discharge of their duties, and, I am advised, has no means of ascertaining whether the endowments of Erasmus Smith can be vested in Roman Catholics, or subjected to a Conscience Clause, without vitiating the intention of the founder.

INCOMES OF PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Mr. COBB: I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education when he expects to issue the Return giving the details of the incomes of public elementary schools which some months ago he said he hoped would be ready in June?

Mr. ACLAND: The printing of this Return, which is a very bulky one, is taking longer than was anticipated, and I do not think it can be issued before October.

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL, WAKEFIELD.

Viscount CRANBORNE (Rochester): I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education whether, in the case of St. John's, Wakefield, Church of England School, notwithstanding the fact that the managers notified to the Department that in the determining school year the parents of the children were compelled to expend a sum equivalent to 1s. 4d. per child for books, the Education Department refuses to allow this sum to be taken into account in calculating the fees now chargeable?

Mr. ACLAND: The sum in question was not a charge for the use of books, but a sum received for books sold to children, and cannot, therefore, be reckoned as part of the school fee in the determining year. Moreover, it was not entered in the school accounts for that year. The managers state that during the determining year the children were compelled to purchase books as a condition of being allowed to attend. I have to point out that such compulsion was illegal, and that if any complaint had been made to the Department at the time the managers would have been told that the children must be admitted, whether they bought the books or not, or the Government grant would be forfeited.

THE WICKLOW MAGISTERIAL BENCH.

Mr. J. O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland how many Catholics and how many Protestants were on the County Wicklow Bench when the present Government came into Office in August, 1892, and if he has any objection to state the number of Protestants and Catholics who at the present date are Magistrates of the County Wicklow; and can he state what proportion of the population of Wicklow are Catholics?

Mr. J. MORLEY: When the present Government came into Office there were 92 Protestant and 8 Roman Catholic Magistrates in the County Wicklow. The numbers at present are 98 Protestants and 23 Catholics. Seventy-nine per cent. of the population of the county is Roman Catholic.

CATTLE TRAFFIC ON IRISH RAILWAYS.

Mr. MACARTNEY (Antrim, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the rates over the Great Northern and other Irish Railways are the same per wagon for sheep as well as cattle, irrespective of the size or weight carried; and whether this is owing to any Regulations enforced by the Board of Trade?

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.): The maximum rates for the conveyance of live stock on Irish railways are embodied in the Railway Rates and Charges Order Confirmation Act, 1892, and were agreed to by the Irish traders at the time of the passing of that Act. The maximum rate for a truck load is the same for sheep as for cattle, the load being limited to such number as may reasonably be carried in the truck. As more sheep can be got into a truck than cattle, the position is scarcely as stated in the hon. Member's question.

INSPECTORS OF WORKSHOPS IN LONDON.

Mr. KEIR-HARDIE (West Ham, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the 10 recently appointed Inspectors of workshops in London cover the same area as 140 Sanitary Inspectors; whether the total salaries of the first named amount to only £1,000 per annum, whilst those of the last named run to £20,000 per annum; and whether he can furnish the number of notifications sent to the workshop Inspectors by the Local Authority, and the number of complaints of insanitation sent from the Inspectors of workshops to the Sanitary Authorities in London only?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. ASQUITH, Fife, E.): I do not know how the figures of 140 and £20,000 are arrived at, but it is the case that since 1892 I have appointed 10 Inspectors' assistants, in addition to the ordinary factory staff, for the special duty of inspecting workshops in the County of London, with salaries of £100 rising to £150; and that in the same time 124 Sanitary Inspectors have been appointed under the Public Health Act, 1891, in the same area and for the most part with the same salary. The duties of the former are confined to workshops; those of the latter are much wider. The number of notifications sent to the workshop Inspectors by the Local Authorities is 292. The number of complaints of insanitary workshops sent by the Inspector of workshops to the Local Authorities is 1,315. I take this opportunity of acknowledging the hearty co-operation of the Medical Officer of the London County Council with the Inspectors of workshops and his readiness to inquire into all cases neglected by the Local Authorities.

THE INTERNATIONAL CODE BOOK.

MR. TOMLINSON (Preston): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, and if so when, steps can be taken to carry out the recommendation of the Washington Conference that the complete alphabet of the Morse Code be inserted in the International Code Book for optional use, with special reference to night signals at sea?

MR. BRYCE: The International Code of Signals Book is now under revision by a Committee consisting of representatives of the Admiralty, the Board of Trade, the Trinity House, and Lloyd's. I understand that the question of inserting the Morse Code in the Book for optional use as recommended by the Washington Conference is receiving their careful consideration, but no definite decision on the point has yet been arrived at, although there is obviously a strong *primâ facie* case for adopting the recommendation.

AUXILIARY POSTMEN AT CHRISTMAS.

MR. J. ROWLANDS (Finsbury, E.): I beg to ask the Postmaster General whether he will give instructions, when the auxiliary assistance is engaged at the end of the year for the Christmas pressure, that preference shall be given to suitable persons who are out of employment?

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. A. MORLEY, Nottingham, E.): It is essential, when auxiliary service is required at the Post Office, that only men of known and proved character should be employed, while, in the case of those whose employment lasts during a portion only of each day, care has to be taken that their total earnings from the Department and outside are not less than 18s. a week. Subject to these provisoes, I gave orders some time ago that no new auxiliaries should be taken on who are in regular employment elsewhere.

PARTY RIOTS AT LURGAN.

MR. MACARTNEY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on Lady Day, 15th August, five Protestants were assailed and beaten by a Nationalist mob on Silverwood Road, Lurgan; extensive premises wrecked in Brownlow Terrace and Mary Street; and that the Railway Hotel and shops in Market Street were attacked, and several Protestants attacked in Edward Street during the evening; and whether any persons have been made amenable?

MR. J. MORLEY: On the 13th instant a party affray took place at Silverwood, near Lurgan, and, no doubt as a result of the ill-feeling arising from this affray, a Catholic named Murray was next day attacked by Protestants. I have directed proceedings to be taken against a number of persons in both of these cases. Another affray took place at the same place on the 16th instant, when a man named Turkington was attacked by Catholics. Proceedings will be instituted in this case also. About 2 o'clock on the morning of the 17th instant some persons unknown smashed with stones the windows in eight houses in Lurgan, the estimated damage done amounting to about £13. The occurrence is apparently due to party feeling. No person has yet been made amenable for the window breaking.

THE "COSTA RICA PACKET."

MR. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any further communication has been received from the Dutch Government regarding the *Costa Rica* case; whether he can state the present position of the question or the purport of the last communication from the British to the Dutch Government; and what answer has been given by the Foreign Office to the protests of the New South Wales Government and its demand for redress?

***THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS** (Sir E. GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): There is nothing to add to the statement which I made on Friday night, except that we have since received the Report of the Law Officers on the question of arbitration, which will be considered without delay. I understood that the communications from the New South Wales Government have been fully answered by the Colonial Office.

CROMWELL'S STATUE FOR WESTMINSTER.

MR. EVERETT (Suffolk, Woodbridge): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he has considered the question of putting a statue of Oliver Cromwell in some part of the Palace at Westminster; and whether he will be able to gratify the wish of many that there shall be such an addition to the statues there?

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. H. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): No series of historical personages can be complete without the inclusion of Cromwell. As I have already said, I have no funds at my disposal this year to defray the cost of a statue; but I have obtained the sanction of my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer for making the necessary provision in the Estimates for next year.

THE PEERS' VETO.

MR. COBB: I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Government will, before the close of the Session, make any statement as to the course which they propose to take with regard to the veto of the House of Lords?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir W. HARCOURT, Derby): This is a very grave question — the gravest, I may say, which will occupy the attention of the Government. But I do not think that I could, during the present Session, make any definite statement on the subject.

MR. SEXTON: I wish to ask the right hon. Gentleman, looking to the fact that several measures which have passed this House have been defeated by the exercise of this veto, and especially, from my point of view, to the fact that this Parliament has been rendered impotent in regard to Ireland by the rejection of the Home Rule Bill last year and of the Evicted Tenants Bill this year from the same cause, whether the Government intend or anticipate that, in the Queen's Speech at the opening of next Session, they will be able to define their policy?

SIR W. HARCOURT: It is those facts to which my hon. Friend refers that constitute in great degree the gravity of this question. I have already stated that the Government are fully impressed with the gravity of the question, and hope to be able to deal with it; but, as I have told my hon. Friend before, I do not think it would serve any good purpose, nor are the Government prepared at this moment to make a definite statement on the subject.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): May I ask whether it is not a fact that the two Bills referred to were rejected in this House by a large majority of the votes of Members from England and Scotland?

SIR W. HARCOURT: I have already stated that I am not a Separatist to the degree that are gentlemen opposite— [MR. SEXTON: Conservative gentlemen]—and I recognise no distinction between the votes of Members of this House, or between the nationality from which they come.

MR. BARTLEY: But, as a fact, were not the Bills referred to carried in this House by the preponderance of Ireland, which has a larger share of representation than it ought to have.

[No answer was given.]

"A DIALOGUE AT WATERLOO."

MR. THORNTON (Clapham): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether the late Sir E. Landseer's picture of the Duke of Wellington revisiting the field of Waterloo with his daughter-in-law, the Marchioness of Douro, is to be permanently located in the provinces, where it has been for some years; and whether he will endeavour to secure for the present generation of Londoners an opportunity of seeing it either in the National Gallery or at South Kensington?

THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Sir J. T. HIBBERT, Oldham) (who replied) said: I am informed by the Director of the National Gallery that Sir Edwin Landseer's picture, entitled "A Dialogue at Waterloo," was removed from South Kensington to the National Gallery with the rest of the Vernon Collection, in 1876, and remained there until 1883, in which year it was lent to the National Gallery of Ireland, where it has been ever since. It is not at present proposed to recall the loan, as, owing to the large size of the picture, there is not sufficient space for its exhibition here.

MR. THORNTON: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the original donor stipulated that the picture should be kept in London?

SIR J. T. HIBBERT: I will call the attention of the Trustees of the National Gallery to what the hon. Member says.

LABOURERS' COTTAGES AT TRIM.

MR. KENNEDY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) whether the Local Government Board have yet published a Provisional Order in respect of the Labourers' Acts Inquiry, held by their Inspector at Trim last November; if not, for what cause, and who is responsible for the delay; and (2) how many representations came before that Inquiry, and how many of them have been sanctioned by the Local Government Board?

MR. J. MORLEY: (1) The Provisional Order has not yet been published, but it is ready to be issued. A printed draft of the Order was sent to the Guardians on the 16th instant for perusal, and on receipt of their reply the Order will be signed. The delay has been occasioned by the necessity for procuring consents to the taking of certain sites. The first batch of these consents was received by the Local Government Board on the 25th of July, and the remainder on the 8th instant. (2) The number of cottages included in the Guardians' scheme was 162, and the number about to be authorised is 81.

MR. KENNEDY: Does the right hon. Gentleman think four years a proper amount of time to be occupied in carrying out these schemes?

MR. J. MORLEY: It seems a long time for an operation of this kind. I am not aware of any other reason than that given for the delay.

MR. KENNEDY: I have known a case which has taken five years.

TRAWLING.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether, in view of the continued complaints of trawling near our coasts and its destructive effects, Her Majesty's Government will take steps during the Recess of carrying out the recommendations of the Select Committee on the Sea Fisheries to extend the territorial limit for fishing purposes; and whether he is aware that already certain Foreign Powers, for example, Denmark, Norway, and Portugal, do exercise jurisdiction for fishing purposes beyond the three-mile limit?

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Sir G. TREVELYAN, Glasgow, Bridgeton): As regards the last paragraph of the hon. Member's question, I am informed by the Foreign Office that the jurisdiction of four miles for fishing purposes has been claimed by Norway. They are not aware of any such claim on the part of Denmark. She is a party to the North Sea Fisheries Convention, which fixes the limit at three miles. Portugal has an arrangement with Spain fixing the limit at six miles, but it is not applicable to the vessels of other powers. Claims of this kind beyond the limit generally recognised by International Law can only be exercised over the vessels of Foreign Powers with the express or tacit assent of those powers. The proposal made by the Select Committee on Sea Fisheries, who reported that they were sensible of the difficulties of making International Regulations, is one for the consideration of the Foreign Office and the Board of Trade.

DAY NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

Viscount CRANBORNE: On behalf of the hon. Member for the Tunbridge Division of Kent, I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education whether the managers of Painscastle National School, Hay, have been ordered by the Department to make extensive alterations within 12 months, including the provision of a cloak room and a new store; whether he is aware that the school possesses now a large porch fitted up as cloak room, and is well warmed by a fireplace; and whether he will make further inquiries before these demands are insisted on?

Mr. ACLAND: In the last Annual Report on this school, after the inspection in May, the managers were told that a cloak room should be provided, and that a stove was needed to heat the school properly. Her Majesty's Inspector stated that there was no cloak room, and that the children's clothes were hung on pegs round the school room. Any representations the managers make will be duly considered.

POST OFFICE OFFICIALS AND LOCAL COUNCILS.

Mr. STOREY (Sunderland): I desire to ask whether in the latest Post Office Circular the Postmaster General announces that it is not competent for any Post Office servant to become a member of a District Council, nor even to offer himself as a candidate, while, as regards Parish Councils, before one can serve he must obtain the permission of the head of the Department through his superior officer; whether, having regard to the answer given the other night by the Secretary to the Treasury, the Postmaster General intends to modify this Circular, so as to enable Post Office servants to serve either on District Councils or on Parish Councils, without asking for any previous consent of their superior, provided that such service does not interfere with the discharge of their duty to the State?

Mr. A. MORLEY: I desire to thank my hon. Friend for having given me private notice of the question. The date of the Regulation he will see is the 14th of August, and the answer of my right hon. Friend the Secretary to the Treasury was given on the 16th of August. No doubt under pressure from the House of Commons the decision of the Treasury was slightly modified, and I can assure the hon. Gentleman that the Post Office will not be behind other Departments in the matter.

JABEZ BALFOUR.

Sir R. TEMPLE (Surrey, Kingston): I wish to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has any official news regarding the extradition of Jabez Balfour?

Sir E. GREY: Yes, Sir; it is correct that the Federal Judge has given an opinion in favour of the extradition.

THE AFRICAN PROTECTORATES.

Sir C. W. DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): I wish to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in order to save a Debate and Division late to-night, he can make any statement with regard to the Supplementary Vote of £80,000 which is being asked for Uganda and British Central Africa? I understand that the Uganda Vote has already been explained, but that for British Central Africa has not been explained.

***Sir E. GREY**: The right hon. Baronet is quite right when he says that it was contemplated that this Uganda Vote should be included in the previous discussion, and there is no new feature in connection with it. The Vote has nothing to do with the provision of a railway, and the amount could not be included on the previous occasion because matters were not sufficiently far advanced. With regard to the second Vote, the fact is this, that the British Central Africa Protectorate has not yet cost this country any money; but it has lately been necessary to undertake very considerable operations against the Slave Trade and the Arabs who are prosecuting it in that particular district. Those operations have been exceedingly successful, and their beneficial results have already become apparent in the protectorate. They have cost a good deal of money, and it is that extra expense which renders so large a Vote necessary. I should say, in addition, that the Vote will not be for this year only, because a protectorate of this kind must, until it pays its own way, cost the country something. The bulk of the £35,000 asked for has been incurred in operations against the Slave Trade.

Mr. BUCHANAN: May we expect that in the future there will be a permanent charge on this country for the administration of Central Africa?

***Sir E. GREY**: Yes, the moment has arrived for that; but the charge will not be so large in future. It will not be so much as this year's Vote.

THE COURSE OF BUSINESS.

Viscount CRANBORNE: Is it intended to take the Education Vote to-night? I understand that there is a very large amount of business in front of it, and that it is very unlikely to be reached.

Sir W. HARCOURT: My hope and expectation is that the Education Vote will be taken to-night. I see nothing on the Paper, and I have received no information to lead me to think it may not be reached at an early hour this evening; perhaps directly after dinner. If we have not that good fortune it will have to stand over.

Viscount CRANBORNE: After what hour will it not be taken?

Sir W. HARCOURT: I cannot name any hour. We recognise the Vote as a most important one, which must have reasonable time for discussion.

Dr. CLARK (Caithness): Is it intended to take the Votes in the Order in which they stand on the Paper?

Mr. R. WALLACE (Edinburgh, E.): The Scotch Members understood on Friday that we were to take the Scotch Secretary's Vote first to-day, but if the Irish Votes are to precede it we shall have no chance.

Sir W. HARCOURT: I never heard of any arrangement except that the Votes should be taken in the order in which they stand.

Mr. R. WALLACE: That seems to me very singular.

Mr. TOMLINSON: In regard to the Education Vote, will the right hon. Gentleman undertake that it shall come on at an hour when the Debate can be reported in the Press?

Mr. WARNER (Somerset, N.): I would ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Third Reading of the Appropriation Bill could not be taken on Friday in order to allow hon. Members to get away early on Saturday?

Sir E. Grey

Sir W. HARCOURT: As to that, I need not tell the hon. Member it is not in my power to fix the time. It is only in the power of the House to fix a day for the termination of the Session, and I cannot press the House to take its business more rapidly than Members in all parts think advisable. What was contemplated was that we should take Committee of Supply to-day and to-morrow, and the Report of Supply on Wednesday. That would enable the Session to be concluded on Saturday. Of course, if the House were willing to take Report of Supply on Tuesday—to finish Committee to-day and to leave what Votes were over to be discussed on Report, we might finish on Friday, which perhaps would be the more convenient course; but we cannot press that upon the House if it does not desire it. On Wednesday it is intended to take the Lords' Amendments to the Scotch Local Government Bill. I do not know how much time that will occupy, but there will only be left a short period for the discussion of the Report of Supply if it takes much time. However, beyond the Education, the Irish and the Scotch Votes, there is very little likely to call for much discussion. It is, however, entirely for the House to determine what they wish in the matter.

Mr. TOMLINSON: Will the right hon. Gentleman answer my question?

Sir W. HARCOURT: I cannot give any undertaking on that subject. I can only repeat the hope that the Education Vote will come on at a reasonable time.

Mr. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy, &c.): When will the Lords' Amendments to the Local Government (Scotland) Bill be circulated?

Sir G. TREVELYAN: To-morrow morning.

Mr. SEYMOUR KEAY (Elgin and Nairn): And the consideration of them will not be taken before Wednesday?

Sir W. HARCOURT: No.

THE IRISH LAND COMMITTEE AND THE PRESS.

Mr. MACARTNEY: I wish to ask the attention of the House for a brief time while I recall the circumstances under which the Draft Report of the Chairman of the Select Committee on the Irish Land Acts was published in certain papers, and in doing so I desire to make a personal explanation. It may be in the recollection of the House that on Thursday last the hon. Member for North Kerry drew the attention of the House to the publication in *The Times* of the particulars of the Draft Report of the Chairman of the Select Committee, and the Chief Secretary, who intervened in the observations which followed the statement of the hon. Member for North Kerry, told the House that that question had been raised very properly at the meeting of the Committee, and that the feeling of the Committee was that whoever had made this communication to the Press had been guilty of an act of impropriety, and to some extent an act of disloyalty to his colleagues on the Committee. The hon. Member for North Louth then put the question to you, Mr. Speaker, whether the newspapers which published these particulars should not be deprived of the privilege they enjoy of reporting the proceedings of this House, and you stated, in reply, that the newspapers might not be so guilty as the person who communicated the news. I now desire to call attention to a paragraph which appeared in the London correspondence of *The Freeman's Journal* of Friday, August 17, this being a paper with a large circulation in Ireland managed by a Board of Directors, the Chairman, and a member of which sit in this House, and a member of which was also, I believe, on the Select Committee. The paragraph ran as follows :—

> "Mr. Sexton rendered a public service in drawing attention yesterday to the breach of faith committed by the representatives of the Orangemen in giving copies of the Draft Report to a certain newspaper. I need not say that the publication of that document does not include any special amount of enterprise, and if the Nationalist Members of the Committee took the same low view of their obligations as the Orangemen it could have been published in *The Freeman* as early as in any paper. A certain Scotch newspaper, I am told, had six columns of the Report, giving many paragraphs since omitted. The Committee sat again yesterday, and the revision of the Report was proceeded with. That revision was of an extensive character, and rendered the published Reports completely misleading in nearly every important respect."

I desire to point out that that paragraph, in my judgment, casts a very serious reflection upon all the Members of the minority on the Committee, if it does not amount to an absolute and distinct allegation that they are responsible for the publication of the Reports. It certainly circumscribes the area of the charge, and points out that the Members who were responsible for the breach of Parliamentary etiquette were the Orange Representatives. That can only apply to myself or the hon. and gallant Member for North Down (Colonel Waring), as we are the only two persons on the Committee who are supposed to represent in any way the Orange interest in Ireland. I desire at once to give the most emphatic denial to the allegations contained in that paragraph. Neither I nor my hon. and gallant Friend ever communicated any Report to any newspaper on the subject, and no Member of the minority on the Committee has had any share whatever in conveying to the Press what purported to be the full Draft Report of the Chairman of the Committee. I hope that the House will not think that I have intruded in any way upon its time in making this personal explanation. The paragraph is couched in very serious language, and seems to convey an imputation upon Members of this House, amounting in effect to a breach of the Privileges of this House. I am, however, quite content with the opportunity which has been given to me to call attention to the subject, and of denying for myself and my hon. Friends the Members of the minority that we have had any share in conveying to organs of the Press the Draft Report of the Chairman.

MR. SEXTON (Kerry, N.) : The only observation I will make upon the statement of the hon. Gentleman is that I believe Members of the House are bound to accept his assurance as far as concerns himself ; but I am not aware that he is in a position to give an assurance on the part of others—[*Cries of* "Oh !"]—I am entitled to say that, and certainly I am not aware that there is any law or practice of the House which binds the House to accept the assurance given by a Member on behalf of others who ought to be here to give it themselves.

MR. MACARTNEY : I may say that I was asked, and other Members of the minority of the Committee were asked, to communicate to the Press this Draft Report. We were told by representatives of certain newspapers that if we did not other organs would get it, and were in possession of it. I consulted my friends, and we all agreed together that whatever might occur in any other quarter we would be bound by the confidential nature of the Draft Report until it was presented to the House, so that I am in a position to speak on behalf of my hon. Friends who are not here, as we all agreed to act together.

THE ORDER OF BUSINESS.

Mr. R. WALLACE (Edinburgh, E.) asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer how it was that an English Vote was to be taken before the Scotch Secretary's Vote, and said he had understood that the last-named Vote was to be taken first in Committee of Supply.

Sir W. HARCOURT: The other day when we agreed to postpone certain Votes the first appeal was made to me by my hon. Friend the Member for Carnarvon (Mr. Lloyd-George) with regard to the Registrar General's Vote. It was a case of first come first served, and my hon. Friend (Mr. R. Wallace) was behindhand on that occasion. The Scotchmen being next they got the next place, and then came the Irishmen, who got the third place.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to,—

Amendment to—

Copyhold Consolidation Bill [Lords]:—

Amendments to—

Quarries Bill [Lords].

Coal Mines (Check Weigher) Bill [Lords], without Amendment :—

Railway and Canal Traffic Bill, with an Amendment :—

Diseases of Animals Bill, with Amendments.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

SUPPLY—COMMITTEE.

Supply—considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1894-5.

Class II.

Motion made, and Question proposed,

"That a sum, not exceeding £24,674, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1895, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of the Registrar General of Births, &c., in England."

***Mr. CARVELL WILLIAMS** (Notts, Mansfield) said, that many years ago a Royal Commission expressed the opinion that, in the public interest, it was very desirable that all Registers of Births, Deaths, and Marriages should be deposited at Somerset House. Acting upon that opinion the Registrar General of that day issued an earnest request to the Nonconformist Bodies to give up possession of their various Registers. They very cheerfully complied, and a large number of Registers were deposited at Somerset House; an Act being passed making the Registrar General their custodian. Some of the Registers deposited were of considerable historical and biographical interest, and for 40 years the previous owners of these Registers had had free access to them, and facilities had been accorded to them to inspect them. Within the last few years these facilities had been withdrawn, and now those most interested in them had to pay the same fees as the rest of the public for consulting the Registers; whilst they had to conduct their researches in the midst of a crowd of persons who were engaged in searching modern Registers. They thought the hardship thus inflicted was all the greater, because facilities were given freely at other public places, such as the British Museum, the Record Office, the Library of Lambeth Palace, and even in the Wills Department of Somerset House itself. The reasons assigned by the Registrar General for withdrawing such facilities were that he had discovered, after 40 years, that he had no power to remit the statutory fees; that the number of applicants had so increased that it was inconvenient to grant the former facilities, and that he had no room, and no clerk, at his disposal. He trusted that the Government would allow a restoration to be made to the Nonconformists of the facilities they had hitherto enjoyed. They were quite willing to submit to conditions as to days and hours, if the Registrar General thought fit to impose them. The additional expense that would be caused could be but very inconsiderable. Where there was a will there was a way. He hoped the Government would have the will, and he was satisfied that then the way would be found also. He also trusted that the Government would order a reprint of the catalogues of the old Registers.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. SHAW-LEFEVRE, Bradford, Central) : The Secretary to the Treasury has asked me to reply to this question. I have consulted the Registrar General, and it appears that it is really a question of want of space. He is very much hampered at present for want of space, and has therefore been obliged to withdraw the facilities which Nonconformists at one time had of searching the Registers. I will make inquiries into the matter, and will endeavour to see whether some arrangement can be made for restoring the privilege of search, and if possible of providing another room for the purpose. I have no information with regard to the catalogues, but I will make inquiries as to whether the advice of the hon. Member can be carried out on that subject.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon, &c.) said, he wished to call attention to the Report published in January last in the Census of Wales, especially with reference to the language Return. In 1890 pressure was brought to bear upon the Government to introduce a new column into the Census Return in regard to language in Wales. The Conservative Government agreed to introduce such a column. Papers on the subject of language were distributed when the Census was taken, but the Welsh Members drew attention at the time to the fact that those papers were not properly distributed, that there were several parishes where no papers at all were distributed, and that in districts which were thoroughly well-known to be Welsh speaking the papers were printed in the English language, and the people were without proper instruction in their own tongue with regard to the method of filling up the Returns. The Registrar General's Report on the Returns contained a grave reflection upon the character of the Welsh people. The Registrar General seemed to have formed a very strong view in regard to the language question. He appeared to have some preconceived opinion on the subject, and seemed very much disturbed because that idea had been upset by the Returns. It was found that out of a population of 9,500,000, 508,000 persons spoke Welsh exclusively, and had no practical knowledge of English. Commenting upon this, the Registrar General said—

> "The instruction seems clear enough. Nevertheless, abundant evidence was received by us that it was either misunderstood or set at naught by a large number of those Welshmen who speak both languages, and that the word 'Welsh' was very often returned when the proper return would be 'both.'"

No indication was given as to the nature of the Registrar General's "abundant" evidence. The Registrar General went on to say that the Returns were absolutely unreliable, that a certain amount of suspicion attached to them, and that no weight whatever could be attached to the Returns made by the people themselves regarding the language they talked. This meant either that these people did not understand the Returns or the instructions given with regard to them, or that they had made false Returns with regard to the language they habitually used. He need hardly say that that was a very grave allegation to make against a whole people, and it ought not to have been published with the sanction of the Government without some evidence of a more clear character than anything indicated in the Report. What was the ground on which the Registrar General came to this conclusion ? He said that some householders returned their children as speaking the Welsh language, although they were only two years of age, and because two cases of this kind were detected the Registrar General came to the conclusion that the whole of the Returns were false. The Registrar General went on to state that he made a test, and discovered that a number of infants were returned as Welsh speaking. The fact that he made such a test indicated a preconceived notion with regard to the Return. He would like to know whether a similar test was made with regard to infants of English-speaking householders. But the test in either case was unnecessary, for the Return contained an age column ; and, besides, as a matter of fact, the Registrar General completely answered his own observations, because he stated further on that children of two years of age—infants, in fact—had been excluded from the Returns of language taken, yet, notwithstanding this, he made the strong statement of which he (Mr. Lloyd-George) complained. But what did the Registrar General expect householders to do? A householder who habitually spoke the Welsh language naturally thought the proper thing to do was to return his children as speaking the same language as himself. Was there anything in that circumstance to justify an important State official in casting this grave aspersion on a whole people? This was a matter of some importance to the Welsh Members, who had been for years enforcing upon the Governments of the day the necessity of appointing Welsh-speaking officials in the Principality—Welsh-speaking County Court Judges, Inspectors of collieries and quarries, and other officials who would have to listen to the complaints of those who only understood their own language. But after the Report of the Registrar General the Census Returns were absolutely useless as regards the number of people reported as speaking Welsh. It was found that after the Census Returns appeared there were 500,000 people who did not understand a word of English. The clergy took alarm, seeing that it affected the position of their Church. Circulars were sent round by the Bishops, and the clergy became amateur detectives as to how the Census Returns were filled up in Welsh-speaking districts, and one or two suspicious cases had been discovered. The Bishops communicated with the Registrar General, and this official incorporated in his Report, which now appeared in the Blue Book, some suspicious evidence got up and cooked by a number of clergy for political purposes. Why was that evidence not produced, so that the House of Commons might sift and test it—a duty it was better qualified to perform than the Registrar General. He protested against anything of the kind. It was clear from the general tenour of the Report that the Registrar General had taken a strong view of this question. The Registrar General came to the conclusion that the Welsh language was only spoken by a few mountaineers, and when he discovered from the Census Returns that his ideas were upset he was naturally very indignant, and instead of setting himself in an impartial frame of mind to sift the evidence, to go through the Returns and to arrange and collate the facts, he set himself deliberately to prove that the whole of the Welsh people were liars. That was a very serious matter. He submitted to the President of the Local Government Board that it was nothing more nor less than an attempt to buttress up the theory which the Registrar General had of the Welsh language, for he had clearly come to the conclusion that the Welsh-speaking inhabitants were very few and were dying out. In the first place, the Registrar General printed an insignificant supply of forms in the Welsh language. He knew of a case where there were about 750 householders in a particular parish. It was an eminently Welsh-speaking district. He did not believe that there were 30 English-speaking householders in the whole district, and yet to that district there had only been sent down 40 or 50 Welsh forms. To another district, which was a purely Welsh-speaking one, the Registrar General sent only three or four forms which were printed in the Welsh language, and then he complained that the Welsh-speaking population seemed to have set the instructions at defiance, and forthwith issued a Blue Book stating that they either did not understand those instructions or had lied. He asked the right hon. Gentleman whether he was prepared to defend such an aspersion cast upon a whole people upon strong partisan evidence which had been got together simply for political purposes by the enemies of the Welsh-speaking population, by men who were simply fighting for their own emoluments there. Was the Registrar General prepared to justify the conclusions of this Blue Book founded on the suggestions of the Bishop of St. Asaph and other political partisans? The conclusions were based on no evidence whatever. They were produced by a person who sat somewhere in an office in Whitehall. He knew nothing about the Principality, and had perhaps only visited it once or twice in his life. He wished to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether the evidence justified the inference of the Registrar General, and, if not, whether a fresh Report could be issued on this subject by somebody who, with a more impartial frame of mind, or that one Englishman who could approach the question in a judicial frame of mind should be instructed to go through the

Returns so far as they affected the Principality of Wales, and produce some Return on which Parliament could rely. He would also point out that there was no kind of Report at all upon such a matter as the decrease of the population in the agricultural districts, or upon the occupations pursued by the people in different parts of the country, upon over-population and other matters. He would further point out that while there was a separate Report as to the Scotch and Irish Census there was no separate Report with regard to the Welsh Census. In a case of this kind there ought to be a separate Return for the Principality.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item A, Salaries, be reduced by £1,200, in respect of the Salary of the Registrar General."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. SHAW-LEFEVRE, Bradford, Central) said, he had had no notice that the hon. Member was going to raise this question.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said, he had told the Under Secretary to the Local Government Board that he intended to raise the question.

*MR. SHAW-LEFEVRE said, that until he came to the House he did not know that the hon. Member intended to raise this important question, and consequently he had had no opportunity of communicating with the Registrar General upon the subject. He had no information on the subject other than that which he could gather from the Report. He did not think, however, the hon. Member was justified in saying that the Registrar General had accused the Welsh people of having deliberately lied, or of having deliberately made false Returns. What he gathered from the Report was that the view of the Registrar General was that a certain number of Welsh people, being enthusiastic Welshmen, had rather misunderstood the language of the Return, and had consequently been rather inclined, to magnify the number of persons who spoke Welsh. [*Cries of* "Oh!"]

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: What does that mean except making a deliberate false return?

*MR. SHAW-LEFEVRE said, he did not think that it amounted to that. He thought the hon. Member had made the charge against the Registrar General on too high ground, and was of opinion that the Report did not justify the assertion that the Registrar General had accused the Welsh people of having deliberate intention to make false returns. That was his opinion. It would seem that children had been entered as speaking only Welsh when it was thought they ought not to have been entered at all. The paragraph did not, in his view, indicate that there had been any deliberate intention to make a false statement. All that was meant was that there had been a desire to increase unduly the number of persons speaking Welsh only. Whether the Registrar General was justified or not in his observations he could not say. He could only take the Report as it was, and he hoped that there would be some future opportunity of making the matter clear.

SIR F. S. POWELL (Wigan) said, he thought it was impossible to read the Census Report without feeling that some of the Welsh parents were somewhat prophetical in their view as to the language to be spoken by their children when they reached maturity. It occurred to him that the Registrar General had made some remarks which were not necessary, and this was often the case in Government Returns. He rose to condemn in the strongest terms the language used by the hon. Member for Carnarvon respecting certain clergymen in Wales. He understood that the hon. Member accused those clergymen of having endeavoured to mislead officials, and, further, accused the Registrar General of being misled by correspondence which had taken place between him and the Bishops and clergy of Wales. That was a most grave accusation to bring against the clergy or ministers of any denomination. [Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE: Hear, hear!] To accuse the clergy of Wales, and particularly such a clergyman as the Bishop of St. Asaph, of having wilfully made certain false returns was an extraordinary accusation, and one which ought not to have been made.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said, he did not make any statement of the kind.

SIR F. S. POWELL said, that if the accusation was withdrawn he had no more to say on that point.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said, he did not withdraw the accusation, because no such accusation was made. He said the clergy had misled the Department, but he did not say they had done so wilfully.

Sir F. S. POWELL said, he did not see how any gentleman living in Wales and knowing the facts could make statements misleading the Department without being guilty of conduct that deserved the severest reprobation.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE: But they do not know the facts.

Sir F. S. POWELL said, they must have known the facts, because they were living on the spot, and he repudiated with scorn the allegation that these clergymen would endeavour to mislead a public official. With regard to the Bishop of St. Asaph, speaking as a friend of his, he declared there was no gentleman in Wales who was a more thorough Welshman or was more ardently attached to Wales than he was; and though a different opinion existed between the Bishop and hon. Gentlemen opposite, he was as much a Welshman as any one of them.

Mr. REES DAVIES (Pembrokeshire) rose to a point of Order. Was the hon. Member in Order in speaking with respect to the nationality and character of the Bishop of St. Asaph on this Vote?

The CHAIRMAN said, he could not say that the hon. Baronet was out of Order.

Sir F. S. POWELL said, his object was to defend the Bishop from the aspersions which the hon. Member had cast upon him—[Mr. Lloyd-George: Hear, hear!]—and he repeated they were absolutely and entirely undeserved. With regard to the question of a Quinquennial Census, he hoped the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Local Government Board would give them some assurance that he would consider the question of such a Census for the whole of the United Kingdom, giving certain facts relating to population which would be of great service.

Mr. EDWARDS (Radnorshire) said, he thought the tendency of the Report was undoubtedly such as had been described. He was afraid he could not agree with the right hon. Gentleman in his version, or his assumption, that the Registrar General did not impute motives. It looked from the whole Report as if there had been a deliberate intention to minimise the number of Welsh-speaking Welshmen in Wales. The Registrar General stated that the desire of many householders appeared to have been to add to the number of Welsh monoglots, and that parents had not only returned themselves as speaking Welsh, but also their children of a few days old. He did not think that was a very extraordinary thing for a Welshman to do. If a Frenchman resident in England had to make a return of his children's nationality he would put them down as monoglots, and in this case he did not see that any grave charge could be made against the Welsh people. It must be borne in mind that the language of Welsh children at home was Welsh, the only time when they had an opportunity of acquiring English being when they were at school. Schoolmasters could now, however, explain the lessons to Welsh children in the Welsh tongue, whereas formerly they were not allowed to do so. It seemed to him that this was a case which was not at all deserving of the censure which had been poured upon it by the Registrar General. Some of his hon. Friends had called attention to the necessity of providing proper Welsh Schedules in Welsh districts, and they had complained that proper Schedules had not been supplied. It had also been pointed out that in many cases the English forms supplied contained no language column. What was the inference from that? That, so far from the Return making out that there were too many Welsh-speaking people in Wales, the fact was that the Return fell under the number. There were whole blocks of cottages which were left without Schedules, and it was in the cottages that the people spoke the Welsh language. It was a curious fact that while the Registrar General inquired very closely and carefully into the case of Welsh children who were put down as Welsh-speaking, he did not say anything in the Report of a condemnatory character of the children put down in the Returns as English-speaking. He quite agreed that there had been a great use made of this Report to bolster up the claims of the Church Establishment. He did not accept the assumption that the Registrar General did not attempt to impute motives, and he did not think that official was well qualified to make such a Report. He joined most cordially in the protest made by his hon. Friend, and he hoped this Report would not be allowed to remain as it was, but that something would be done by the Government to give them an amended Report.

*Mr. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint, &c.) said, that speaking from personal knowledge he could bear testimony to the difficulty that occurred in making Returns at the time of the Census. His neighbours were in difficulties and came to him for assistance in filling up the Census Returns, saying they did not in the least know what the papers meant, and no Welsh forms were supplied to them. What took place in the district where he lived occurred throughout Wales generally, and complaints were made in the House shortly afterwards of the manner in which, in taking the Census of 1891, the officials failed to fulfil their obligations. In one district only 200 Welsh Census papers were distributed, although it contained a Welsh-speaking population alone of 10,000.

*Mr. HUMPHREYS-OWEN (Montgomeryshire) said, he could confirm everything that had been said as to the painful feeling that had been excited in the Principality by the Registrar General's Report. In his own constituency, as in other Welsh constituencies, there was great confusion in sending round the Census papers, the consequence being that many of those who filled them up did so imperfectly and at haphazard. He fully associated himself with the contention that there was *animus* in the Report. It was a painful thing to see highly-placed officials, whether in the State or the Church, allowing themselves to issue Reports of this kind containing expressions which would naturally lead those who were not well acquainted with the facts to form erroneous conclusions as to the number of Welsh-speaking people in Wales. The fact that a man spoke English was no indication of his sympathies or the language he used in daily life. Men who could speak English fairly well preferred to use Welsh in the ordinary affairs of life. The inferences which would naturally be drawn from the Report were either that the Welsh language was dying out or that the use of English was increasing, both of which were erroneous.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE regretted that the right hon. Gentleman could not see his way to give some kind of a satisfactory answer to the question raised, because it would be necessary to press the matter upon his attention a little further. The right hon. Gentleman had paraphrased and endeavoured to explain away the objectionable expressions in the Report, and no doubt if it had been the right hon. Gentleman's own Report there would have been no occasion for these complaints. There was no complaint of the view of the right hon. Gentleman; the complaint was of the Registrar General. The right hon. Gentleman said, in effect, that he did not know this question was going to be raised. He could assure the right hon. Gentleman that that was no fault of his (Mr. Lloyd-George's). Several questions had been asked in the House on the subject; it was then pretty plainly intimated that the question would be further discussed when opportunity offered, and he took the precaution to place a Motion on the Paper for the reduction of the salary of the Registrar General, informing the Parliamentary Under Secretary to the Local Government Board what his reason was for proposing such reduction. It was not, therefore, their fault if the right hon. Gentleman was not posted up on this question. After what had been said, did not the right hon. Gentleman think there was a case for some further Departmental investigation? If he would promise an impartial inquiry into the matter by an official of his Department in whom he had confidence—and there were several who knew Welsh, and the circumstances of the Welsh people thoroughly—then the Debate would for the present close, but in the absence of such a promise it would be the duty of the Welsh Members to press the matter a little further, and to adduce further arguments to enlighten and influence the right hon. Gentleman, since he seemed to know so very little about the subject, and had not been coached in it. With regard to what had fallen from the hon. Baronet opposite (Sir F. S. Powell), he could assure him that he did not intend to bring any charge against the clergy, or any ecclesiastical personage in Wales, of having wilfully misled the officials in this matter. What he did say was that he understood the Bishops in the Principality issued circulars to their clergy, instructing them to make inquiries with regard to the Census Returns, and that the "abundant evidence" referred to by the Registrar

General in his Report was identical with the Returns made by the clergy to the various Bishops. He did not accuse the clergy of Wales of wilfully misleading the public or the Registrar General's Department on this question; but he did say that, having taken a very strong view of this question, knowing how much it affected the matter of the Establishment in Wales, they naturally did not take a very judicial view in regard to the subject. He had asked in this House what ground there was for the inference of the Registrar General that there was "abundant evidence" that the Returns made by the Welsh people were not trustworthy, and the Minister replied that he did not know. In these circumstances, did not the President of the Local Government Board think it was a case for a Departmental inquiry to ascertain what the "abundant evidence" was? It might be that the Welsh people had misunderstood the instructions given in the Census papers; and if they had not misunderstood them a very serious imputation was made upon their veracity. To state that they had made Returns about the language they spoke, which the Registrar General did not believe, was to give them the lie direct, and that was an imputation under which the Welsh people were not satisfied to rest.

*Mr. SHAW-LEFEVRE did not think he could be expected to direct an inquiry by some independent person, but he would make inquiry himself, and would be prepared to make a statement at a future time. He would make special inquiries, and would communicate the result to the hon. Member publicly or privately. He could only now repeat he was persuaded the Registrar General never intended to make any such accusation as had been attributed to him. The utmost of which he complained was that there had been some exaggeration, and that some of the Welsh people had made returns that were not altogether to be relied upon. The only doubt he suggested was as to the number of those who could speak Welsh only. The Registrar General could not be considered to have said that the Welsh people purposely made false Returns.

*Mr. HERBERT LEWIS regretted exceedingly that inquiry could not be granted, because the Registrar General, while blaming the Welsh people, made no reference whatever to the mistakes made by his Department in 1891—mistakes which were admitted in the House by Mr. Ritchie, who was at that time President of the Local Government Board. They could not possibly accept the offer of the right hon. Gentleman as adequate or sufficient, because the sources from which he would derive his information would be precisely those already utilised in producing this extraordinary Report. He hoped his hon. Friend would press the matter to a Division.

Mr. EDWARDS said, it might be that the right hon. Gentleman, in his reading of the Report, considered that it did not impute motives, and that the Registrar General had no malicious motives in passing the figures he did, but everybody looking through the Report would not have the same kindly feelings towards the Registrar General as the right hon. Gentleman. The object of the Welsh Members was to secure that there should be some amended Report, some real official documentary evidence from which no false impression should go out as to the number of Welsh-speaking people in Wales. They felt this was a serious matter for them, and they desired to extract from the right hon. Gentleman a promise that there should be issued an official statement in a form from which no false impression could be derived, giving the facts free from assumptions and inferences.

*Mr. HUMPHREYS-OWEN expressed the greatest reluctance to oppose the Government on a Division, even by way of formal protest, but to that extent he must join with his hon. Friends, unless the right hon. Gentleman would go a little further than he had done. There were two points they had pressed on his attention—namely, the untrustworthiness of the figures and the obvious animus of the Report.

*Mr. SHAW-LEFEVRE said, he would take occasion at a future time to disclaim on the part of the Registrar General any such intention as had been imputed to him. He felt quite certain, although some passages in the Report might seem to justify language which had been used, that the Registrar General never contemplated making such a charge. It was his intention to speak to the Registrar General on the subject in the utmost confidence that he would disclaim any such intention as had been imputed to him, and that he would give an explanation that would be perfectly satisfactory to the hon. Member, so he hoped the matter would not be pressed further, for he felt certain that after inquiry he would be able to relieve the minds of hon. Members.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE inquired whether the right hon. Gentleman would make a further statement on the Report of Supply? It did not much matter what had been the intention or animus of the Registrar General; the important question was whether the Returns could be relied upon or not, and, if they could not, whether the instructions given had been such as could be understood by the Welsh people. What they wanted was a Report on this question upon which Parliament could rely, and which could be quoted in future proceedings in that House. He wanted to know whether the right hon. Gentleman would take steps to furnish the House with a proper Report on this question before the House met next Session?

*MR. SHAW-LEFEVRE could not give any such undertaking, but he would communicate with the Registrar General, and make a further statement on the whole subject on the Report stage.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said that, under these circumstances, he would withdraw his Amendment.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question again proposed.

DR. CLARK said, that for the work done under this Vote Scotland got £13,000, Ireland £157,000, and England £212,000. The population of Ireland and Scotland was about the same, but the difference in the grants to the two countries was very remarkable indeed, The reason was that a good deal of the cost of the work was thrown on the local rates in Scotland, while in Ireland and England it was paid for out of Imperial funds; which was another illustration of the unfair treatment meted out to Scotland.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

2. £6,915, to complete the sum for Secretary of Scotland's Office.

*MR. WEIR moved the reduction of the Vote by £50, with the view of getting information from the Secretary for Scotland on various matters. He considered the salary of £2,000 wholly inadequate for the services rendered by the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for Scotland. It was less than half the salary paid to the Chief Secretary for Ireland, and exactly the same as that given to the Under Secretary for Ireland. He desired, however, to complain that the right hon. Gentleman had failed to redeem the promises which he had frequently made during the last two years in regard to the Crofters Bill.

THE CHAIRMAN: I wish the hon. Gentleman would speak louder. If he is referring to the Crofters Bill he is not in Order.

*MR. WEIR said, the right hon. Gentleman had failed to carry out the promises and pledges he had given, and he attributed that to the supposition that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was too strong for him in the Cabinet, and that the right hon. Gentleman did not assert himself there as he ought to do. With regard to the Crofters Bill——

THE CHAIRMAN: I have already pointed out that the hon. Gentleman is not in Order. The Secretary for Scotland cannot be attacked on a matter of that kind.

*MR. WEIR said, he bowed to the ruling of the Chair; but he thought he had a right to call attention to the fact that the right hon. Gentleman had not given effect to the pledges he had made. However, he would ask the right hon. Gentleman for some information in reference to the Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland. He wanted to know why this gentleman dated his Reports from his private residence in Ross-shire? He sympathised with the Inspector's heart being in the Highlands, but he would like to know if the £250 allowed the Inspector for travelling expenses included the expenses of his travelling to and from his private residence? The Inspector of Constabulary was one of the Justices recently appointed by the Lord Lieutenant of Ross-shire. He had to complain that the Inspector spent too much of his time in travelling between his private house and Dingwall in attending Quarter Sessions. He would now proceed to refer to the charges of the Returning Officer in Ross-shire.

The CHAIRMAN: That matter does not come under this Vote.

Dr. CLARK: On the point of Order. I wish to ask whether it is not the fact that though these charges fall on candidates, the control is in the hands of the Secretary for Scotland?

The CHAIRMAN: If the charges are paid by candidates the matter does not arise under this Vote. It does not amount to administration within the sense that the Secretary for Scotland is responsible for this particular matter.

Dr. CLARK: Is he not responsible for the appointment?

***The CHAIRMAN**: That may be so; but he is not responsible for the conduct of the officer.

Dr. CLARK: Oh, yes.

Mr. WEIR: Is he not responsible for the conduct of the officer?

The CHAIRMAN: The officer acts under Statute, and the Secretary for Scotland is not responsible for that.

***Mr. WEIR** said, he must deal with the matter on another occasion. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would secure from the Treasury the money for the construction of the Garve and Ullapool Railway.

Mr. R. WALLACE (Edinburgh, E.) said, the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Saturday compared the Secretary for Scotland to St. Sebastian. He did not think saintship was the strongest point in the variegated character of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and certainly he could not understand why the right hon. Gentleman selected St. Sebastian as a parallel to the Secretary for Scotland, because St. Sebastian was well known to have been a young and dutiful warrior who was with difficulty killed by Domitian in his early youth. The Secretary for Scotland, he was sure, would not be displeased at his saying that youth was neither his (Sir G. Trevelyan's) strong point, nor his (Mr. Wallace's); and as for militant propensities, he did not know that he should be insulting the right hon. Gentleman were he to say that he was a lover of peace. But in this matter this saint would not have done, or abstained from doing, exactly what the right hon. Gentleman was doing in the connection with respect to which he wished to make a few remarks. He referred to the grievances of the professional waiters in Edinburgh. What this Society stated was that they were very much handicapped and otherwise ousted and put to a disadvantage in earning a living in their calling by the fact that the State-paid subordinate officials in the Public Departments of Edinburgh, and the macers of the Court of Sessions, messengers of the Exchequer, and officials of the Register House, who had salaries of from £90 to £150 a year, were enabled, through this endowment, to undersell them in the waiting market. Representations had been made to the right hon. Gentleman, which he held in his hand, but which he did not think he should be justified in reading to the House.

The CHAIRMAN: I think not.

Mr. R. WALLACE said, then he would hold them as read. These representations asserted that there was a certain amount of irregularity and impropriety in the management of the Scottish Departments in this matter. The allegation was that these officers were not allowed to engage in this extra Departmental activity except upon days which were reckoned out of their six weeks' holiday; but the allegations made to him by the Waiters' Society were distinctly to the effect that that was not true, but that these officials were allowed to go out and employ themselves in waiting, and adding considerably to their incomes, and that their holidays were not to be curtailed. What he wanted to press on the right hon. Gentleman was whether he would not once for all institute a thorough and searching inquiry into the matter. The right hon. Gentleman ought not to be satisfied with a mere Departmental reply. The Scottish Public Departments required to be taken by the throat, to put it in plain Scottish, and if the right hon. Gentleman would get the truth out of them, he must apply his fist to that portion of their constitution. The waiters of Edinburgh had noticed that the Government had yielded to the pressure of the eight hours movement. It was notorious that one of the reasons put forward by the promoters of that movement was to provide employment for the unemployed. What the waiters of Edinburgh not unnaturally said was that £1,500, which was pocketed by the macers, messengers, and other officials in the Public Departments in Edinburgh in working 14 and 15 hours a day, might much better go to the relief of the unemployed section of their body. He understood that holidays were given to public servants in order that, after a temporary cessation of labour, they might come back more invigorated for the performance of their public duties. But the moment one of these officials got a holiday he proceeded to devote it to harder work than he was usually engaged upon. If he were to spend his holiday by romping up and down stairs with plates of meat and bottles in a heated atmosphere loaded with carbonic acid gas, he certainly would be rather unfitted for the discharge of his duties in the public interest. These off-days given to the Edinburgh officials were scattered in doles throughout the year, and therefore were no good to the officials concerned, and he submitted seriously that those holidays might very well be dispensed with, with advantage to the Treasury. He submitted, further, that it was against the interests of decorum and propriety that these officials should be employed in this way. He would take an extreme case. The Lord Advocate would bear him out in saying that the Senators of the College of Justice were not only men who were solid, but were occasionally men of brilliant, parts. The right hon. Gentleman had known them as men of histrionic and literary capacities—people who wrote and sung their own songs with great delectation to their hearers. Suppose that some of these gentlemen chose to go on the "boards." He knew they would draw audiences every night, and that even upon two-thirds salaries they would add very considerably to their incomes. But was he to be told, if either Mr. Irving or Mr. Toole, or both of them, sent a remonstrance to the Government, that the Government could say it was no matter of theirs—that if these gentlemen did not occupy Court hours in this way there was no title to interfere? Yet that was what they said in regard to these subordinate officials. He would make a condition that that sort of double activity should not be possible in those cases. Take the case of a macer. He was not a small official; he was a dignified official. He had a salary, he wore a gown, and called out "Silence in Court" every quarter of an hour in the College of Justice. Was it right that a person in that position should be found ranging over the whole country serving "hot and hot" between polished tin plates? He thought that the conduct of these officials in connection with epicurean proceedings was not consistent with that dignity that suited the administration of justice, nor the propriety that was befitting the appropriation of the resources of the country. He would ask the attention of the Government to another matter—namely, the extraordinary coincidence between the private festivities of Scotch Societies and the Departmental slack time of its public officers. The explanation that was made by the Scotch Departments was that they never gave a holiday to their officials except when there was a cessation or slacking of business in the Departments; and that when they gave these holidays they never asked, and did not know, what the officials did in the holidays. Well, he did not doubt that. The Department said it, and it was his duty to believe the Department, and he performed that duty with the best grace that he could. But then a remarkable thing took place, and it was this: that, whenever a great social function came off in Scotland, throughout the length and breadth of the country, by a most extraordinary coincidence, it became known in the Public Departments that on the very day when that social function was to take place there was also going to be a special cessation of public activity and of attention to public business to such an extent that they were able to allow one-third, or even two-thirds, of their official staff to get their regularly-appointed and promised share of their annual holidays; and when the appointed day arrived, whether it were in Edinburgh, in Inverness, in Oban, in Dumfries, or in any of the other principal towns of Scotland, there were found some officials, he would say many officials, of the College of Justice, of the Exchequer, and of the Register House on the spot, busy interrogating the guests as to their partiality for thick soup and clear, or, at a later period of the evening, confidentially inquiring whether they would have champagne or potatoes. He must say, for himself, that these coincidences had occasioned him, as he had no doubt they had occasioned the Secretary for Scotland, many difficult moments. He was not able to explain this, except by a reference to the doctrine of the pre-established harmony which the great philosopher Leibnitz employed to explain the connection of mind and body. When it was willed that a hand should rise, as that great man said, the thing took place as a matter of course, not as the result of cause and effect, but because the mind and body were like two clocks which had been wound up to strike continually at one point together. That was the only way in which he had been able to explain the continual, the most remarkable, he might say the mysterious, the almost miraculous and marvellous synchronism that subsisted in Scotland between the private festivities of Scotch Societies and the slack time of its public departments. He commended that matter to the Scotch Department, and he thought that some of the spare hours and some of the spare energy of Dover House might very well be applied to working out that problem with advantages which were not always found to emanate from that very leisured and "lotophagous" institution.

SIR G. TREVELYAN said, that a threatened man did wisely when he asked no questions. The storm had fallen, and he must say he had enjoyed it as much as anyone in the House, because everyone must consider that he had had a treat during the last few minutes. The three English Inspectors of Constabulary got each £750 to £850, and that was the salary of the Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland. He (Sir G. Trevelyan) did not think that, compared with the salaries paid to Chief Constables, Inspectors of Constabulary in Scotland should have one penny less. If there was any difficulty arising in the discharge of the duties of this official, through his living in Ross-shire instead of Edinburgh, or Glasgow, or wherever hon. Members might think he ought to live, the question must be reconsidered; but if the Inspector of Constabulary discharged his duties with great assiduity and completeness, they ought not to interfere wherever he chose to reside. The travelling allowance of £250 did not appear to be at all excessive. He was not responsible for the conduct of the Returning Officers, though he would always be glad to answer questions on any subject which the hon. Member might put to him. The Inspector of Constabulary had been appointed a Justice of the Peace, and had taken part in several decisions. He had represented to the official that that was not a wise course, and he had since then desisted. On the question of the waiters, the question was not one confined to Edinburgh, but the general conclusion to which the Government had come was that they should insist that their *employés* should undertake no offices that were incompatible with their giving to the performance of their official work the whole of their official time. In the case of Directorships of Companies—a class of business in which he hoped not only public servants but people of every degree were very cautious before they embarked—the Government did not approve and would not allow *employés* of its own to take Directorships which would take them away from the public offices during even five minutes of the time when public business was done; but they did not inquire what they were doing out of hours, and some very prominent public servants have been known to spend their time in literary labour. With regard to the waiting at night, there was no special irregularity. In the English public offices the messengers were allowed to wait at night—indeed, a very great number of them were well suited for that purpose from the character of their calling before they took the office of messengers. The matter was open to abuse as regarded waiting during the day, and he had not been satisfied with taking the reply of the Departments, but had written a letter requesting that the superintendent of the messengers should be informed that care must be taken in future to prevent any irregularities. He would consult with the Treasury, to see whether some general rule might not be made that messengers, like other people, should take their holidays in one succession of days, or, at any rate, in two long holidays in the course of the year, and that no special single holiday should be given if there was the least suspicion that these holidays were for the purpose of waiting. He would lay down Rules which would prevent any such abuse in the future, and he would signify to the heads of these Departments that a holiday must never be given to enable a man to do any work outside his office.

DR. CLARK hoped that the official resident in Ross-shire, to whom reference had been made, would take the hint as to his action in small local matters in the County of Ross. He (Dr. Clark) spoke on a former occasion very strongly indeed as to the remarks of the Assistant Secretary, but he had had more accurate information since, and he regretted he had spoken so strongly, but still he thought some of the statements were inaccurate. He regretted that while law and order ran in Ireland, it did not do so in the Highlands, and that they refused to allow the aid of the forces of the Crown to carry out unjust work. He did not think they ought to be in that position. The Airdens case was one where the law was unjust, and he would rather have an unjust law put in force occasionally, because they would get up public steam to have it repealed. He hoped, however, that the trustees of estates who were compelled to carry out the law would not be made responsible for not having done their duty.

Vote agreed to.

3. Motion made, and Question proposed,

> "That a sum, not exceeding £16,739, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Fishery Board in Scotland and for Grants in Aid of Piers or Quays."

*MR. BUCHANAN alluded to the great loss which the Board had sustained by the death of its Chairman. Those who knew Mr. Esslemont knew that the Public Service had lost in him a most able, energetic, and capable man. One of the subjects to which he (Mr. Buchanan) wished to call attention was that on which he put a question earlier in the day. Everyone on the coast was aware that the grievance connected with trawling continued to exist. He had a budget of letters on the subject in his possession. He would not occupy time by quoting any of these communications, but he proposed to quote one authority. A case had been brought under the consideration of the House during the present Session by the Member for Orkney with regard to a prosecution for breach of Trawling Regulations. The case fell through from what he thought a miscarriage of justice, but the Sheriff, referring to the extent to which illegal trawling was carried on along the shores of Orkney, said—

> "I believe it has already been shown on this coast that they systematically trawl at night without lights, and I think that more than once the scene of their operations has been so chosen as to be a source of considerable danger to passing ships."

That was the evidence of a person who was perfectly unbiased on the subject. He (Mr. Buchanan) wished to refer to the existing Regulations. There had been constant complaints year after year as to the inadequacy of the sea police, and these complaints were repeated in the Report of the Board for the present year. The Secretary for Scotland had given the Fishery Board a new cruiser on the west coast; but on the east coast, where the fisheries constituted more than two-thirds of the whole of the Scotch fisheries, the only vessel available was the *Jackal*, and she was practically restricted to service within the Moray Firth. For carrying out the Regulations along the rest of the east coast the Board had no cruiser. He strongly urged the Secretary for Scotland to carry out the recommendation of the Committee which sat last year, and of every one who had considered the subject, that an efficient police independent of the Navy should be placed under the control of the Fishery Board, so that they should be able to see that their Regulations were carried out. This duty was thrust upon the Admiralty, and that Department would be glad to be relieved of it. An efficient marine police independent of the Admiralty should be given to the Fishery Board. The Select Committee of last year considered the subject of trawling, and recommended that steps should be taken to extend the territorial limit for fishing purposes along the coast, and that there should be an International agreement come to with other Powers sanctioning the extension. The Government, however, had not taken any steps to ascertain whether the Powers interested in the fishing in the North Sea would be disposed to consider this question. The principal objection on the subject was that France was jealous and disinclined to come to any agreement with us. The Institute of International Law held its last meeting in Paris in April, and passed a resolution, moved by one of the members representing France, unanimously recommending that for fishing purposes the territorial limit should be extended from three to six miles. That showed that there was a strong preponderating opinion among jurists in France as elsewhere in favour of this change for extending jurisdiction. He trusted that the question would not be lost sight of by the Government. Another point was one relating to expenditure. As mentioned at page 120 of the Report, the Fishery Board had paid a large sum to the Post Office as guarantee for certain telegraph offices at fishing stations. Considering the limited resources of the Fishery Board, it was hardly fair that that practice of one Department paying over to another should continue. Surely the Post Office out of the large revenues at its disposal, particularly from the large fishing ports, might forego those charges, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would strongly urge on the Post Office Authorities the adoption of that course. Then he wished to call attention to the want of fishery harbours round the coast of Scotland. Ten years ago a Committee made certain recommendations on the subject, but no steps had been taken to carry them out. Powers had been given recently to the Fishery Board, by an Act passed by himself, by which the Board could use its harbour grant as a security on which to borrow money. So far so good, but the sum placed at their disposal was quite inadequate for embarking on a general scheme for building fishery harbours round the Scotch coast. He, of course, recognised that for their construction it was necessary that contributions should be made from local as well as from Imperial sources. They had some reason to complain of the attitude of the Government, during the passing of the Local Government Act, in reference to an Amendment proposed by the Member for Orkney, by which County Councils or districts might pledge their rates for harbour purposes as burghs were able to do. That subject was not taken up by the Government as it should have been. It would be of the greatest advantage to the whole coast of Scotland if some general scheme for fishery harbour construction were introduced and passed by the Government. He was not merely proposing additional grants-in-aid for harbour construction, but that they should be constructed according to a definite and well-thought-out plan. What was wanted was that an adequate sum should be advanced so that those who were responsible in these matters might know how far a general scheme could be carried out during the next 10 or 15 years for the construction of fishing harbours where required for the benefit of the fishing population round the coast of Scotland.

*SIR W. WEDDERBURN (Banffshire) joined in the expressions of regret at the loss they had sustained in the death of Mr. Esslemont. He was universally valued and respected. The appointment to the Chairmanship of the Fishery Board was a matter of great importance to the fishing industry of Scotland, and he trusted, therefore, that his right hon. Friend, in filling up the vacancy, would as far as possible consult the wishes of the practical men engaged in it, and endeavour to obtain the services of someone experienced in all branches of the industry which he had to superintend, and the prosperity of which depended upon his efforts. As regarded the construction of harbours of refuge, particularly in the Moray Firth, he thanked the right hon. Gentleman for the sympathetic way in which he had received the suggestions made to him. That was absolutely necessary for the protection of the fishing fleet against north-east storms. The question was one of life and death to the fishermen, and he trusted, therefore, that the Secretary for Scotland would press the matter on the Treasury until a grant for this purpose was made. Three thousand pounds for fishery harbours for the whole coast of Scotland was a ridiculous sum, and the least that should be done was to double it. Speaking for his own constituency, he entirely agreed with what had been said about increasing the limit of jurisdiction to six miles, and until that was done trawlers would be able to continue prowling round our coasts. He would point out also with regard to the sum paid to the Post Office that the amount was larger than stated—more like £1,500, he thought. It was not desirable that so large a proportion of the Fishery Board's small resources should be devoted to subsidising the rich Post Office and

Telegraph Department. Further, he wished to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he could give the Members for Scotland any assurance as to when the Fishery Bill would be again brought forward ?

MR. GOURLEY (Sunderland) said, more efficient steps should be taken for marine police purposes. The tendency was not to increase the number of sailing vessels, but of steamers. Referring to a sum set down in the Estimates for a new cruiser and tender for the purposes of marine police on the coast of Scotland, he suggested that the expenditure might be avoided by the Admiralty utilising for the work, as was done on the English coasts, some of the many spare gunboats they had at their disposal. He also thought the three-mile limit might be advantageously extended.

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire) said, that the trawling difficulty was by no means an easy one to deal with. For his own part, he believed that until the full responsibility for illegal trawling was placed on the masters of vessels, the Board or the Government would never be able to deal effectually with it. The sum provided for the work to be done by the Fishery Board was much too small, and what had been spent had been to a great extent frittered away. The money granted, if not sufficient for all purposes, should be spent on those harbours which benefited the largest number of people along the coast.

*MR. WEIR, in reference to the alleged ravages by trawlers on the West Coast of Scotland, reminded the Government of an assurance which he received last Session, that the speed of the new cruiser should be equal to catching any trawler around the Island of Lewis. Notwithstanding that assurance, it was now found that the Government had employed a 10-knot cruiser to catch trawlers possessing a speed of 12 or 13 knots. Two of the trawlers had passed two days working day and night in Loch Roag, where they had completely ruined the fishery, no gunboat being within hundreds of miles. The same thing had occurred in many other places round the Western Islands. He was surprised at the small expenditure on this vessel. She was very well for fine weather, but not for stormy seas. She was staunchly built, and had a good captain and crew. Still, it was no use whatever sending a 10-knot vessel to catch 13-knot trawlers. What chance could she have against them ? He had been assured that the speed of the new cruiser would be sufficient to capture any trawler. The new cruiser did not fulfil that condition. He quite agreed with the Member for Sunderland that they should have gunboats, but why not send a torpedo boat if they could not send gunboats ? It was the duty of the Admiralty to see that the industry was protected. It could not possibly be protected by the means placed at the disposal of the right hon. Gentleman. The *Jackal* spent most of her time in Invergordon Harbour, and the officers were at every garden party, *fête*, and amusement in the neighbourhood. The *Jackal* ought to be out at sea doing her work, instead of being always in harbour. The commander of the *Jackal* had two masters, the Admiralty and the Fishery Board, and everybody knew what happened to those who sought to serve two masters. The *Jackal* should be put under the control of the Fishery Board absolutely. At many places besides Loch Roag the fishermen were simply ruined. The living of the line fishermen was taken from them, and how they were to exist next winter he could not conceive. He feared there might be trouble in the North. He was anxious that this should be avoided, and that gunboats should be sent to protect the fishing-grounds. The Secretary for Scotland recently told him that the people should act as their own sea police. But how could they report trawlers which came along at night, or how could a fishing boat chase a steam trawler ? The people of Lewis had decided to act on that advice. They, however, needed one thing to effectually settle the whole question. If the right hon. Gentleman had arranged with the War Office and the Admiralty to supply the people with Maxim guns and ammunition, and had given them full license to use those guns and to send to the bottom of the sea any and every trawler found within the three mile limit around the Island of Lewis, he would warrant that the Lews men would not be troubled any further with trawlers. When these men were about to protect their own interests, as suggested, the gunboat *Foxhound* was sent to watch them. So far as he could ascertain, she was 33 days in harbour, and nine days out of harbour, and a precious little way out of the harbour she went. In drawing the attention of the Secretary to the Admiralty to the fact that she only went eight knots an hour, he inquired whether she had fired a single shot. The answer was that as no trawler had been seen or heard of, it would be difficult to fire a shot at them. He agreed with that. But why did the *Foxhound* not go out to look after the trawlers: how could the *Foxhound* see trawlers 35 miles off on the other side of the Island? He hoped answers of this frivolous character would not be given in future. On another occasion he asked how the commander of the *Foxhound* when lying at Stornoway could tell what was going on 35 miles off at the other side of the Island? The answer was that the information came from the Sheriff Substitute. But how did he know what was going on 35 miles off? The Fishery Board officer was the man who should receive this information. When he drew attention to the fact that there was no fishery officer there, he was told the officer was required in Orkney and Shetland. Why was there not an officer kept in the important fishing district of the Island of Lewis? It would not mean much extra cost, as these officers only received £80 or £100 a year. How did the right hon. Gentleman expect to get information regarding trawlers around the Island of Lewis? Did he expect him (Mr. Weir) to go down and get it when the Whip was trying to keep every man he could at his post here? How could the right hon. Gentleman expect so faithful a follower as himself to desert him? He had not paired; it was so much nobler to remain here and support the Government from whom they hoped to obtain something. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said the other day—"Abandon hope all ye who enter here" after the middle of August. Until this afternoon he had had a little hope that the Secretary for Scotland would have sent him off to the North rejoicing, but he would now go up to Scotland hopeless, and sad at heart. He was very much surprised that the Government had treated this matter with such absolute indifference. This little five-thousand pound cruiser was not enough. A swift gunboat should be sent out to scare away the Sassenach marauders. He wanted to know why there were not more penalties inflicted upon the trawlers? It would be better to send up a gunboat and one or two Maxim guns and settle the whole question. The *Jackal* was not absolutely at the disposal of the Board, and he thought she ought to be. No man could serve two masters.

*The CHAIRMAN: The hon. Gentleman has said that over and over again, and I draw the attention of the Committee to the repetition.

Mr. WEIR said, he should refer to the latter part of a letter of the late Chairman of the Fishery Board. He said—

> "I may add that I am of opinion that the sea police of the Scotch coast never can be satisfactory unless a sufficient force could be placed entirely under the control of the Fishery Board."

Mr. Henniker Heaton rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put;" but the Chairman withheld his assent, and declined then to put that Question.

Debate resumed.

*Mr. WEIR urged Parliament to give the Fishery Board entire responsibility, with suitable cruisers. He supported very heartily the desire of communities who had appealed for harbours. He had himself appealed for harbours, and had appealed in vain. A dozen harbours were wanted in his constituency. He had many times called the attention of the Secretary for Scotland to Portmahomach Harbour, and he sincerely hoped something would be done to put the harbour in a better condition. He would draw attention to other harbours on another Vote.

Dr. CLARK (Caithness) said, the question of trawling was a very important matter to the fishermen in the North of Scotland, and he wanted to impress on the Committee the necessity for something being done in reference to it. They had a large number of fishermen who depended for a living upon the fishing industry, and the fishing industry and the fish supply was a very important industry indeed in Scotland. Unfortunately, these men were having their living destroyed, and this source of food was being destroyed. Acts of

Parliament had been passed for the purpose of preventing it; but they had not been carried out, and the money of this Vote of £5,000 for a new cruiser would not be adequate for the work required to be done. A large number of English steam trawlers had on the East Coast of England almost entirely destroyed the very valuable fishing beds there. They had gone to Ireland and done the same thing. Now they were going round the whole of Scotland, because it was the only place left to them except the Bay of Biscay. There were laws to prevent them trawling within the three miles' limit, but the sea police was altogether insufficient, and so the trawling was going on. The trawlers were destroying the lines of the line fishermen and the nets of the drift fishermen, and were greatly injuring the herring fishing. It was ridiculous to expect that an eight-knot cruiser like the *Jackal* could do anything against boats steaming 12 and 13 knots. As the result of the Select Committee that sat last Session it was proposed that £5,000 should be spent on a new cruiser, and the Fishery Board, which was dependent upon the Admiralty for gunboats and failed to keep the sea police, were going to have a number of boats themselves. The local Fishery Boards in England had got small boats of this kind, and probably the best method of dealing with these trawlers would be to have boats of the same type as trawlers which could go up to 14 knots, and should be similar in appearance to trawlers. Torpedo boats would be very much better, and he considered the Admiralty were not doing their duty. If they sent torpedo boats and fast gunboats it would be splendid work for that branch of the fleet. It would be useful for them, because a great deal of this illegal trawling was done at night. The sea police was utterly inefficient, and the work of destruction of Scotch fishery beds was going on, and Scotch fishermen were having their lines and nets destroyed. There was a vessel that had committed a crime, and because, forsooth, it had left Scotland and gone to Milford Haven, the Public Prosecutor would not take the trouble of having these people summoned and fined, as the Act directed. This was a condition of things which ought not to exist. If an English fishing boat went into Scotch waters and broke Scotch laws, when it went back to England they ought to know of some remedy, and the captain ought to be summoned before the Scotch Court and fined. He did not blame the Secretary for Scotland or the Fishery Board, but he did think the Lord Advocate should see to it, or the Procurator Fiscal should give his opinion of the cases. Surely he ought to see that wherever they go the law follows them, and they are brought to book for their illegal actions. If they were only going to spend £5,000 that would be only continuing the existing condition of things. If they were to have new boats they would require £20,000 at least, and £5,000 in expenses alone. He hoped the Admiralty and the Scottish Office would come to terms, so that a number of swift boats would be placed at the disposal of the Fishery Board until the question was ended. The people were not going to have their fishing beds destroyed by English trawlers; and if they were not going to have legal protection, then they would resort to illegal protection, and defend their rights themselves. About £5,700 was spent in harbours. He very much preferred to give the people the right of raising the money themselves, and let them get it on the security of their votes, in which case the harbours would be built in a reasonable fashion, and according to the wants of the community, instead of in the wasteful way that obtained when the money came from the Imperial Treasury. If they were coming to the question of stopping these grants he would certainly vote with the English Members who desired that they should cease. He had no objection to the grant of £3,000 under the provision of 6th Geo. IV. if they could get back their surplus grant sums. They had to pay £1,500 a year for telegraphic expenses, so that the Government had it all back again, inasmuch as the Telegraphic Department wanted security, and a sum of money had to be paid down. Last year there was about £700 taken on this head, but the Scotch Fishery Board did not get the balance. So far as the £3,000 was concerned, it was their own money, and Scotland had no preference over England, Ireland, or Wales in that respect.

Sir G. TREVELYAN said, that hon. Members for England who had listened to the hon. Member for Ross-shire must not consider that that county was, after all, so badly used. There were at this moment being constructed in the Island of Lewis one harbour costing £16,500, and another costing £2,000. Besides, there were nine other harbours in the constituency of the hon. Member which were either in the course of construction or very soon to be taken in hand. Compared with any other county in Scotland or in England or Wales, it could not be said that Ross-shire was badly off. The most important matter in regard to harbours which had been raised was the question of the disposal of the £3,000. An hon. Friend had done himself great credit by carrying a Bill through the House by which that sum of money could be capitalised, which made it necessary for close consideration on the part of the Fishery Board, the Secretary for Scotland, and the Scottish Members themselves, because instead of giving £3,000 a year, they should have something like £100,000 at once. It was important that his hon. Friends interested in the question should agree upon some harbour or harbours, for it would never do to take the first suggestion, and perhaps spend the greater part of this money on one work instead of spreading it over. The Scottish Office would regard with real gratitude any combined scheme on the part of the Scottish Members and the Scottish Local Bodies, naming some one or two harbours on which this large sum might be expended. As to the amount paid out of the brand fees for telegraphic extension, these were very likely telegraphic services which would not have been obtained at all if someone had not guaranteed them. But most of the time of hon. Members had been taken up by discoursing about the prevention of trawling, and English Members might imagine that Scotland had specially bad usage. So far as that went, however, Scotland had two vessels placed at her disposal out of the Treasury funds. But she had besides, during the summer fishing, three of these Admiralty gunboats for the protection of her fishing and, incidentally, the suppression of trawling. In the case of one of these, they had had in Shetland a particularly brilliant capture of a trawler, which gave the Government the idea that if even they had to go and cut out privateers, they had officers who could not only show courage but craft. It was all very well to run down the speed of these Government vessels, but the fact remained that within the last six weeks or two months no fewer than four trawlers had been captured by them. These vessels could not be everywhere at once; but he had not the slightest doubt that with these two vessels at the disposal of the Fishery Board—he had decided that the time of the *Jackal* should not be spent in scientific experiments, but in the protection of the fisheries—Scotland was, at any rate, better off than any other part of the coast. His hon. Friend the Member for Banffshire (Sir W. Wedderburn) had expressed the hope that in any future Sea Fisheries Bill for Scotland the expenditure would be put upon the rates. He was very much in agreement with his hon. Friend, but it was difficult to persuade the people of Scotland generally upon that point. As for himself, he would not recommend any Minister for Scotland to introduce such a Bill in a hurry. Such a proposal might be acceptable in the constituency of his hon. Friend, but it would not be acceptable to the majority of the Scottish Members. But he earnestly hoped that in the course of the next three or four months Scotland would come to some determination as to what method of fishery protection it wanted; but he could not agree that the opinion of the Scottish Members was unanimous on the question of placing that protection on the rates. He hoped, however, the question was not insoluble. He submitted that in the main the Government had done right in this matter, and he thought they and the Fishery Board deserved credit for having made a new departure, instead of being open in any serious sense to criticism.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said, he had no objection to the action of the Government in supplying cruisers for the protection of the Scottish fisheries, but he thought they might recognise the claims of other places as well. With regard to the grant, it ought to have been made in the interests of the country generally and not merely for the improvement of Scotch harbours.

Question put, and agreed to.

4. £87,081, to complete the sum for Local Government Board, Ireland.

Mr. MACARTNEY called attention to the deportation of a man named Charles Devine. This man went to Scotland 42 years ago, and lived in Glasgow for 27 years. Owing to the failure of the City of Glasgow Bank he had to leave Glasgow. He ultimately became chargeable on Glasgow, but he was deported to Donegal Union on the ground that, as he had lost his settlement, his birth settlement revived. This birth settlement was a mere figment of the imagination and was not sanctioned by any Act. The law said nothing about forfeiting a settlement once acquired, and he would be glad to hear what the Chief Secretary had to say in the matter.

Mr. J. MORLEY said, he was not surprised that this question was raised. There were numbers of these deportation cases, and no one could deny that the Irish Unions had a serious grievance. He had looked into the matter, and he found that legislation would be the most satisfactory method of dealing with it. He should consult with his right hon. Friend near him (the Secretary for Scotland), with the view of arriving at an equitable settlement of what was an undeniable grievance.

Mr. MACARTNEY said, he was very much obliged to the right hon. Gentleman for his statement.

Vote agreed to.

Class III.

5. £37,641, to complete the sum for Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions, Ireland.

Mr. MACARTNEY said, he wished on this Vote to call attention to several matters. The first was the case of Katie Walsh who had been attacked in a very violent manner, and whose reason was stated to have given way in consequence of the attack. The right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. J. Morley) had stated in answer to a question that the police had no reason to believe that the aberration of intellect had resulted from any personal attack which had been made upon her. It appeared from a communication which he (Mr. Macartney) had received that the girl had had a dispute with some of her neighbours, and had made an accusation of a somewhat grave character against another girl. A good deal of feeling had been engendered amongst the friends and relatives of both parties, and the girl Walsh had been attacked by three or four men who tried to throw her over a cliff. It was stated that one of the persons who made the attack was a well-known character in the neighbourhood. There had during this spring and summer been a series of brutal assaults in this neighbourhood arising out of private quarrels, and these assaults were believed to have increased from the fact that those who had been guilty of them had received at the local Petty Sessions punishments which were not at all commensurate with the offences. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he was still of opinion that there was no ground for supposing that the intellect of the girl was disturbed by the attack? The next case he wished to refer to was connected with Colonel O'Callaghan's estate. On the 30th of July he had asked the right hon. Gentleman a question with regard to a placard headed "Vengeance," which had been extensively posted in the neighbourhood of Colonel O'Callaghan's residence. The reply was that ample police protection had been given to Colonel O'Callaghan, and that no harm had been done by the posting of the placard. As a matter of fact, however, Colonel O'Callaghan had not been able to sell his meadowing, which he had been accustomed to sell, and he had been boycotted in Smithfield Market. All his (Mr. Macartney's) information led him to believe that the attacks on Colonel O'Callaghan had followed the speeches made by one of the Members for Clare at Bodyke on the 8th of July. On the 15th of July notices were posted in the neighbourhood threatening with death anybody who bought meadowing from Colonel O'Callaghan. On the 22nd of July the placard headed "Vengeance" was extensively posted, and on the 2nd of August it was again largely posted. Colonel O'Callaghan's son, who had nothing to do with the dispute, and was on excellent terms with his own tenantry and with the great majority of his father's tenantry, had been boycotted, having found it impossible the day after the second posting of the placard to sell some meadowing he had advertised for sale. Colonel O'Callaghan's son was of opinion that the persons who had posted the placards were perfectly well known to the authorities in the district, and that if more active measures were taken it would be quite easy to prevent a recrudescence of boycotting in the district. There was another matter he wished to call attention to. On the 3rd of August last there appeared a paragraph in *The Tuam News* from its Ballinasloe correspondent stating that a certain Paddy Healy had taken a grazing on an evicted farm, that this was a wanton violation of Land League principles, and that everyone was asking why a meeting was not got up. He (Mr. Macartney) wished to know whether if the facts were as stated the man who was threatened would receive every protection from the authorities? The last case he wished to bring forward was in connection with the eviction of John Bridgeman in County Limerick. The evicted tenant in this case had nothing to do with the Plan of Campaign. He owed three years' rent, and was evicted for a decree of £106. After the eviction proceedings had been abandoned and resistance had been offered to the Sheriff, the police declined to give him assistance. While the disturbance was going on the Sheriff sent a special messenger to the police barracks, but assistance was refused him. The right hon. Gentleman would not contend that the police were justified in refusing assistance because the barracks were not in the district where the breach of law occurred. It would be impossible for the right hon. Gentleman to find any authority for such a proposition. The right hon. Gentleman had no official legal adviser in the House, but if he would consult any authority on crime in Ireland he would find that there was nothing to justify the action of the Constabulary. The right hon. Gentleman had told him (Mr. Macartney) that prosecutions might be instituted, and in that case he should like to know who was being prosecuted. There was just another case to which he would refer. It was a case which was made the subject of a question by the hon. Gentleman the Member for St. Stephen's Green on Monday last—a case where a meeting was held in County Roscommon to denounce a man who had taken an evicted farm, and where strong language, to the effect that the man was a reptile, and that an eye should be kept on the shopkeepers with whom he dealt, was used by a person who was a Justice of the Peace and by others. The Chief Secretary, speaking from the information which had been supplied to him, had given the hon. Member to understand that not much damage was done to this man, and that police protection had been afforded. He (Mr. Macartney), however, had since heard that all his men had left him but two. The right hon. Gentleman had said that the speech of the Justice of the Peace would be referred to the Lord Chancellor, and the other speeches to the Irish Law Advisers of the Crown. What action had the Lord Chancellor taken, and what did the Irish Government propose to do in the other cases? There were one or two other matters on which he should have liked to have spoken, but at that hour of the evening he would not detain the Committee.

Mr. J. MORLEY (who was almost inaudible in the Reporters' Gallery) was understood to say that as to the last case mentioned by the hon. Member he had not yet received a reply from the Lord Chancellor with regard to the action of the Magistrate, but, as to the other language used at the meeting, the Law Officers advised him that the evidence before them would not sustain a prosecution. In answer to the question whether the protection given to the holder of the evicted farm was adequate, he had to say that the police authorities in this and all cases acted upon a uniform instruction—namely, that they were to spare no effort to secure protection, and rather to over-protect than expose persons to any risk. As he had stated on former occasions, the fact that the present Government had determined to govern Ireland without exceptional repressive laws made it all the more obligatory on them to see that the ordinary law was put into full force and carried out with the utmost vigilance and resolution. That had been the policy of the Government in the past, and it would continue to be their policy in the future. As to the case of the Sheriff who had been engaged in carrying out evictions in Limerick, and to whom it was said that the police had refused protection, the question was whether this officer not having taken the trouble to secure for himself due and full protection had a right to send messengers to the barrack, which it appeared was in another district, for assistance, and then and there, though there did not appear to be a tumult, the assault, or whatever it was, being over, demand police aid. As he understood it, the plea for the constabulary not going to the aid of the Sheriff was not a very good one. No doubt cases might arise where constables might go outside their districts, but, as he understood, no representation was made to the effect that disorder of any magnitude was taking place. He would make further inquiries into the matter.

MR. MACARTNEY said, that as the right hon. Gentleman was going to make further inquiries he should like to know what was the rule in these cases where police assistance was requested from outside districts in the case of a person being assaulted. He had never in his life heard of a rule under which such assistance would be refused.

MR. J. MORLEY: It might be a rule or practice.

MR. MACARTNEY: Well, I never heard of such a practice.

MR. J. MORLEY said, he would see into the matter. If, in their view, the police ought to have given the assistance demanded they would communicate with him in that sense. He rather thought they were within their rights. The hon. Gentleman asked who were to be prosecuted. He was not able to give the names just now.

MR. MACARTNEY: Will there be more than one?

MR. J. MORLEY: I am not sure. As to the case based on a paragraph in *The Tuam News*, he could only say that he had not heard of it before, but he would make inquiries. Then there was the case of Katie Walsh. He had read through all the details this morning, and must say it was obscure in certain particulars. She had been bathing. Subsequently she had an altercation with some people, and was found on the edge of the cliff talking in a rambling way. Whether her condition was due to an attack upon her was not clear; at any rate, the police did not see their way to take proceedings against any one. With regard to the alleged boycotting of Colonel O'Callaghan's sheep, it was said that they were followed by Malone from Clare to another town, but that was not the case.

MR. MACARTNEY said, Malone had asserted that he followed the sheep round the market.

MR. J. MORLEY said, he was informed that that was untrue.

MR. MACARTNEY said, his case was the 3rd of August.

MR. J. MORLEY said, in his Report it was stated "on the day mentioned," and he did not know whether that was on the 3rd of August or not. But it appeared that 28 sheep were sold, 18 for 30s. each, and 10 for 37s. each, prices which suggested that they were sold at a fair market value. The buyer stated that no person spoke to him or interfered with him in any way in the transaction. Malone had only just returned from England, and he remained near the pen because a friend of his who was a regular client of the salemaster had some cattle for sale on the same stand. No one informed the police that they saw Malone following the Colonel or speaking to him. So much for the transaction of the cattle and the presence of Malone. The next point was about the constable Colonel O'Callaghan appealed to, and who declined to interfere. It appeared that the constable was outside the market, and was a young constable who only joined the Force in Februrary last; he was very confused in his statement. It might be assumed the allegations in paragraph 3 were not correct. Malone had previously been bound over to keep the peace as stated in paragraph 2, that was quite true. With regard to the last paragraph, protection was given, and would be given, to the rights of salemasters in this or any other market. He would take the opinion of the Law Officers as to what extent interference would justify action by the police, and that opinion would be acted upon in case there should be boycotting at markets. Every person who took cattle to market, whatever his position, had equal rights, and those rights would be secured.

MR. MACARTNEY said, he was much obliged to the right hon. Gentleman for his statement, though there was a most extraordinary discrepancy between the statement of the right hon. Gentleman and the information that he (Mr. Macartney) had obtained. He did not throw any doubt upon the right hon. Gentleman's statement, but he would make further inquiries into the matter, and if he had been misinformed he would at once communicate with the right hon. Gentleman.

Mr. J. MORLEY said, he might say further that he was not quite satisfied with the police Report, and wished to hear the whole story, therefore he gave instructions for the salemaster to be seen and questioned upon the matter. It would, therefore, be seen that he had taken some trouble in this matter in order to arrive at the true particulars, and he thought it would be found that he had given the right story.

Vote agreed to.

The following Votes were agreed to:—

6. £65,800, to complete the sum for Supreme Court of Judicature and other Legal Departments in Ireland.

7. £34,662, to complete the sum for Irish Land Commission.

8. £63,879, to complete the sum for County Court Officers, &c., Ireland.

9. £59,222, to complete the sum for Dublin Metropolitan Police.

10. £668,249, to complete the sum for Constabulary, Ireland.

11. £71,021, to complete the sum for Prisons, Ireland.

12. £56,095, to complete the sum for Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Ireland.

Mr. KNOX (Cavan, W.) said, there was one point he would like to raise on this Vote, and which was a point that he had brought before the attention of the right hon. Gentleman before. He thought this Vote was a little out of proportion to a similar Vote for England. While in some parts of Ireland the Vote in aid was sufficient, in Belfast there would be found, if the right hon. Gentleman would inquire into it during the coming recess, an urgent need for some further provision for industrial schools. The Catholic community there, as had been explained to the right hon. Gentleman before, had done all they could to provide an industrial school. They were not over-burdened with wealth, but they had spent a considerable sum in acquiring suitable premises for the extension of their industrial schools, which were greatly needed in an industrial town like Belfast, but it was a lamentable fact that the excellent premises that had been provided for the purpose were lying vacant and useless because a certificate could not be granted. The Grand Jury of Antrim was quite willing to give the increased grant from the county, and the Catholics in the district would supplement that by their subscriptions. Last year the right hon. Gentleman made some difficulty in consequence of an increase being made in another part of Ulster, and he trusted that in the coming recess the right hon. Gentleman would inquire into the case, and see if this was not an exceptional case that justified a certificate.

Mr. J. MORLEY said, he remembered very well the deputation that was good enough to wait upon him on this subject, and he admitted that the case did present to his mind some hardship, but, as the hon. and learned Gentleman well knew, in these matters they had to be on their guard, and were constantly advised that they must refuse the certificates for these schools because money was not more abundantly forthcoming. He would undertake to inquire into the matter to which his hon. and learned Friend referred and see what he could do.

Mr. SEXTON said, it was true that the Vote for these schools was relatively high, but it was also true that the taxation was very high, and therefore there were two or three matters that should be kept in mind by the right hon. Gentleman in regard to this application. One of those was the great poverty of Ireland, and another was that the cost of the State for prosecutions and the maintenance of prisoners had been greatly reduced in the course of the last 20 years by the operation of these schools. School children who were in danger of falling into crime had been received into these schools, the result being that £1 was saved for every 1s. expended on these schools, and these were circumstances that should not be left out of view, and were of much greater moment than the amount of the Vote. When the right hon. Gentleman came into Office he presented this case to him, and he had presented it to the late Government, who, when they went out of Office, had almost reached the point when they were willing to conclude what was desired. He not only pressed the right hon. Gentleman but introduced subsequently a deputation from Belfast, which included the Rev. James Hannon, the master of the school. He thought it was a very hard case, as this was a community in Belfast overcrowded with Catholic children in a city where the Catholics, by reason of the peculiar bitterness of sectarian feeling there, and by reason of the spirit in the county, were placed in a position of considerable disadvantage. He thought it was hard upon a community who, at an expenditure of £3,000 or £4,000, had secured a suitable house and grounds within two or three miles from the city where the children might be taken with advantage to their bodily and physical health, and who had done it on the faith of something like a promise from the Inspector of Industrial Schools in Ireland. If the certificate were granted it would undoubtedly save the State a burden of at least £500 a year; and the grant from the State was a very small matter as compared with the great benefits that would result from it. He would say no more than that the refusal had caused him great disappointment and great regret, but he hoped the words that had fallen from the right hon. Gentleman to-night would be found to have some substantial force.

Vote agreed to.

13. £3,822, to complete the sum for Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum, Ireland.

CLASS IV.

14. £499,792, to complete the sum for Public Education, Ireland.

15. £605, to complete the sum for Endowed Schools Commissioners, Ireland.

COLONEL NOLAN said, he would like to call attention to the fact that the Christian Brothers did not get any money for their schools.

THE CHAIRMAN pointed out that this was a Vote for endowed schools, and not of education generally. The whole sum proposed to be taken was only £605.

COLONEL NOLAN: Then I think I shall be right in moving a reduction of £600. I would like to point out that education generally in Ireland——

THE CHAIRMAN: That will not arise on this Vote. This is only a Vote for the Endowed Schools Commissioners in Ireland.

COLONEL NOLAN said, he should then object to the Endowed Schools Commissioners. He considered that endowed education in Ireland was not managed in a spirit of fairness and equity. He thought it would be a good plan to abolish most Education Commissioners in Ireland, and particularly the Commissioners for endowed education. A great deal of money would be saved by adopting such a course. As a general rule only Protestant headmasters were appointed to endowed schools, and consequently nobody but Protestants attended the schools. After some movement in this matter by the noble Lord the Member for Paddington there were one or two Catholics appointed as headmasters, and he believed the experiment was successful. The Protestants did not fall off, and the Catholics came to the schools in tolerable numbers. This was a policy which he earnestly recommended to the attention of the Chief Secretary, and it was one which, he regretted to say, was not followed out to any extent in Ireland. The general policy of education in that county—except in the primary schools—was to give the whole of the endowments in such a manner that, although they were nominally open to all, it was only Protestants that could avail themselves of them. He acknowledged that primary schools, so far as religion was concerned, were managed with tolerable fairness, but the moment they went above the primary to the endowed schools, they found that the endowments were administered so as to be exclusively in favour of the Protestants. Having made his protest, and having regard to the fact that there were so few Members present, he would not put the Committee to the trouble of a Division.

Vote agreed to.

16. £1,200, to complete the sum for National Gallery of Ireland.

*MR. WEBB (Waterford, W.) said, he understood that any portion of the sum of £1,000 for the purchase of pictures if not used in one year had to be returned to the Treasury, and the result was that if a picture worth £1,500 was available for purchase for the Gallery it could not be bought, for the simple reason that no balance could be held over to add to the next year's grant. He believed that money could be held over in the National Gallery in London, and he asked that the same rule should be applied to Ireland.

SIR J. T. HIBBERT said, he would explain how the matter really stood. Unfortunately, in Ireland, no bequests were made to the National Gallery, as in England. Therefore, the money granted yearly was to maintain the Institution, given as a "grant in aid," and carried over from one year to another. The Trustees of the Irish National Gallery were allowed to purchase pictures of the value of £1,500 a year—£1,000 to be paid in one year and £500 in the next. No money was paid back into the Exchequer, and if bequests were made to the institution the difficulty would be got over, and the National Gallery in Ireland could be treated in the same way as the National Gallery in England. Personally he was in favour of such a plan, if it could be adopted.

MR. WEBB said, the right hon. Gentleman's explanation was satisfactory.

*MR. JOHN BURNS desired to know how it was that £1,030 was paid in wages and salaries for eight people in connection with this Museum? Out of that the Director got £500, which was a proportionately large salary compared with the others, whilst he also had an allowance of £150 a year for travelling expenses. In what was that money spent?

SIR J. T. HIBBERT replied that the Director had to travel about to see pictures which were offered for sale, and this, of course, entailed considerable expense. That was the only explanation he could give, but if the hon. Member desired it, he would endeavour to obtain further information by the time the Report stage was reached.

*MR. JOHN BURNS would feel obliged if the right hon. Gentleman would do so. There was only £1,000 a year to spend on pictures, and yet the Director got a salary of £500 with £150 for travelling expenses for looking after pictures on which this large expense was incurred. As compared with the National Gallery here, this expense was disproportionate.

Mr. Webb

MR. J. MORLEY said, he wished to recognise the excellent work accomplished by the National Gallery in Dublin. With a modest allowance of £1,000 a year, they had got together a most interesting and valuable collection. The results obtained there showed what could be done with a small sum of money, provided that a good Director was secured. The Gallery was, in fact, a model and a most excellent democratic Picture Gallery.

*MR. JOHN BURNS said, the right hon. Gentleman completely misunderstood his point. The fault he found was not with the Gallery, nor the money spent in improving it; but when £1,000 was voted for the purpose of buying pictures, it would strike anyone as curious that £150 should be spent in railway fares. He thought the Dublin Gallery might get many of the pictures from the National Gallery that were now in the basement of that Institution unseen by anyone; and £100 might be saved from travelling expenses and spent on better pictures.

SIR J. T. HIBBERT said, that 20 pictures of various kinds were bought for the Irish Gallery last year; and that necessitated a considerable amount of travelling, not only in England, but abroad.

COLONEL NOLAN said, the Chief Secretary had described the Gallery in Dublin as a democratic Picture Gallery. He did not know what a democratic Picture Gallery was; but he preferred an artistic Picture Gallery. The total amount voted for the National Gallery in Dublin was £2,500, which was altogether too small. In the National Gallery in London they could afford to spend £70,000 on a picture which would not have fetched £10,000. An hon. Member told the Irish to go down into the cellars of that Institution and dig out the works of art there; but considering the rubbish that was in the Gallery itself what must the rubbish be in the cellar, which the hon. Member wanted to have sent to Dublin? The allowance of £1,000 for buying pictures for the Dublin Gallery was a ridiculously small sum, and he wished the forms of the House permitted him to move to increase it.

MR. SEXTON thought the hon. and gallant Member for Galway was quite right in saying that the sum was too small; and almost worse than its smallness was the fact that had been disclosed, that the Director was not allowed to spend the money to the best advantage, because unless he was able to use the money in one year, he would have to return it, or any balance that there might be, to the Exchequer. Did the return of the money in that way rest upon statute; or was it merely a Regulation of the Treasury? It appeared to him that the English Gallery, because it was wealthy, was allowed a greater degree of freedom than the Irish Gallery because it was poor. The former received £5,000 a year from the State, and if they did not use it all the balance could be retained and added to the bequests they had. But the Irish Gallery had no bequests, and he certainly thought the money for its improvement should be spent at the discretion of the managers.

Sir J. T. HIBBERT said, that no money had been returned during the last five or six years. He should be very glad if the rule which applied to England could also be applied to Ireland, but a grant in aid could not be given unless there was some sum or bequest available for the use of the Gallery. If a small bequest were made to the Dublin Gallery, arrangements could be made similar to those prevailing in England.

Mr. SEXTON said, a hardship existed, although no money was returned to the Treasury, because the rule obliged it to be spent within one year or it would practically be lost, so that it could not be laid out to the best advantage of the Dublin National Gallery.

Vote agreed to.

17. £2,450, to complete the sum for Queen's Colleges, Ireland, agreed to.

Class VI.

18. £14,035, to complete the sum for Pauper Lunatics, Ireland.

Colonel NOLAN said, that in Ireland if lunatics were dangerous they were sent to the county asylums; and if they were not dangerous they were sent to the workhouses, where they gave a great deal of trouble and were badly treated, owing to the want of proper accommodation. He thought there ought to be a reorganisation of the whole system of treating lunatics in Ireland; and that no lunatics should be sent to the small workhouses of the country districts.

Vote agreed to.

19. £1,959, to complete the sum for Hospitals and Charities, Ireland, agreed to.

Class III.

20. £28,386, to complete the sum for Law Charges.

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT said, he desired to call attention to the extraordinary delay which had occurred in taking proceedings against persons other than Jabez Balfour who were connected with the Liberator frauds. There was no failure which had caused such widespread ruin as the failure of the Balfour Group. The failure of the parent Company was known in September, 1892. That was nearly two years ago, and one by one afterwards the other Companies which were started by Mr. Jabez Balfour failed. Loss and sufferings which were almost unparalleled had followed. Ever since he had ventured to ask questions in the House on the subject he had been inundated with letters from all parts of the country written by persons who had suffered in the frauds. Most of these persons belonged to the middle class and working class, and were Nonconformists, and chiefly supporters of the present Government. The fact of their writing to him showed the intense interest that was felt in the subject.

*The CHAIRMAN: Order, order! The hon. Gentleman can only call attention to the delay on this Vote. He cannot go into the merits of the case.

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT said, he did not intend to go into the merits of the case. He was merely pointing out the general interest that was aroused in the matter, as the justification for his intervention. There was a full inquiry by the Official Receiver, and all the information which could be got was in the hands of the Law Officers fully 10 months ago, late in October, 1893. Ever since then the Government had been pressed in the matter, but no action had been taken. He could, of course, understand how anxious the Law Officers were that the principal author should be arrested before proceedings were taken against others involved in the disasters. The House could not but think that there had been a want of alertness on the part of the authorities in respect to the escape of Balfour himself, though it was a matter of congratulation that the announcement had been made in the House that evening that one of the Federal Courts of the Argentine Republic had pronounced in favour of his extradition, and that there was some prospect of his being brought to this country. It was, however, with the fellow-directors of Jabez Balfour that he was now chiefly concerned; and he repeated that it was extraordinary that 10 months were allowed to elapse without anything being done, though the Official Receiver in his Report had declared that the last three or four balance-sheets of the Company were false, and were issued by the Board to deceive and mislead those who had invested their money in the Company. He had asked several questions on the subject, but the answers were unsatisfactory. On the 25th of May the hon. Member for Preston asked a question as to how long it was since the Official Receiver's Report had been presented, and whether further proceedings had been decided on. The first question was replied to; with regard to the second question, it was said that it would not be for the public benefit that anything should be made known. That was an answer which he ventured to say should never have been made in the House merely to shirk a disagreeable question—merely to put off dealing with a question; and was an answer that should only be made when there was the sincerest conviction that it was indeed for the public benefit that no statement should be made. It was impossible for the House to believe that a statement by the Law Officers of the Crown that a prosecution was to be instituted would be injurious to justice by warning incriminated persons to escape; for escape those persons could not under any circumstances, if ordinary diligence were exercised. He believed that if the Public Prosecutor had done his duty promptly Jabez Balfour would never have been allowed to escape from this country. He could not but think that, if the authorities had made up their minds and acted properly, there could never have been any danger of the persons incriminated escaping. Again, on the 31st of May he (Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett) asked whether all the details had not been given to the Public Prosecutor six months before, and whether any action would be taken? The President of the Board of Trade, to whom the question was addressed, gave what he would venture to describe as a misleading answer. The right hon. Gentleman said the documents in the case were handed in from the 30th of October to the 25th of April. The essential documents—the documents showing fraud, if there was fraud—had been handed in in October. Some unimportant papers might have been handed in since October, 1893; but the materials and groundwork for a prosecution were then in the hands of the Public Prosecutor, and at the service of the Attorney General. On the 11th of July he asked another question, whether it was intended to take proceedings against persons other than Mr. Jabez Balfour? The Attorney General said that it was not in the interest of justice that any statement should be made; and, in reply to a further question, the hon. and learned Gentleman said—much to the amusement of the House—that it was in his predecessor's time that the papers were handed in, and that his directions were being acted on. If the directions of the hon. and learned Gentleman's predecessor had been acted on, the only action was inaction. On the 13th of July he asked another question, and then the Attorney General gave one of the most extraordinary answers ever heard in the House. The hon. and learned Gentleman said that the question had been informally laid before the Attorney General at the end of January, and again in April. He should like to know what "informally" meant. Important documents disclosing what most people believed to be tremendous frauds were before the Public Prosecutor in October, 1893, and yet the Attorney General stated that the question was only brought before his predecessor at the end of January; and that no documents had been laid before the Law Officers as such. What did that mean? On the 18th of July he appealed for information to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but the right hon. Gentleman treated the matter in the most cavalier style. The Chancellor of the Exchequer referred him to the Foreign Office, and to the Attorney General, in happy oblivion of the fact that all efforts to urge the Attorney General into action had failed. Being further pressed, the right hon. Gentleman said it was impossible to extract information from him which he did not possess. So that the Heads of the Government apparently had neither studied this question, nor decided to take any action. He now asked once more, Was it intended to take proceedings against those supposed to be responsible for these gigantic frauds other than Jabez Balfour? He wished now to ask whether the Law Officers intended to take proceedings against the other persons he had indicated. If they did, why had not the proceedings been taken before this? A considerable number of persons were involved. Of the Directors of these Companies who were responsible for their management, there were from 30 to 40. The total of the losses by the frauds had been about £10,000,000 sterling, and all these losses had fallen on a class of people who were the least able to bear them. He had received a letter that morning from a small tradesman who had put the whole of his savings—amounting to £2,000—from time to time into the Companies under the direction of Jabez Balfour. Now, having lost every penny he possessed, he was obliged, at the age of 60, to go to work again, and try and accumulate something for the future. This was only a typical case out of thousands, and what every one was anxious to know was why no steps had been taken by the Government in the matter. He had not pressed the Government as to why steps were not taken to prevent Jabez Balfour leaving the country; but he would press them to say why they had not taken steps against these minor offenders, but still most responsible, in the conduct of these most improperly-managed Companies. He thought the Committee would admit that this was a case he was justified in bringing before it. The greatest possible interest was felt in the matter, and he trusted they would hear from the Law Officers that there would be no further delay in dealing with the case.

SIR J. RIGBY said, he was afraid that he should not be able to give the hon. Gentleman the full satisfaction he wished to obtain in reference to this subject. It was clear that the hon. Gentleman did not understand the difference between the responsibility that attached to the Attorney General in such a matter as this and that of the Law Officers of the Crown. The only person ultimately responsible for taking action in cases of this kind was the Attorney General, and although he might consult his colleague, the Solicitor General had nothing whatever to do with directing prosecutions at all. Papers in such cases were never laid before the Law Officers of the Crown, and the Attorney General alone was responsible. The hon. Gentleman had made merry, not for the first time, at his expense in connection with this case. All he could say was that he knew no more than the hon. Gentleman himself what communications had been made in relation to the matter to his predecessor in Office, and it was no part of his business to give the Attorney General any information with regard to such communications. Therefore, that conduct on his part, which appeared so laughable to the hon. Gentleman, was merely the result of his acting according to the ordinary practice. The matter was first brought to the notice of his predecessor in January. It was impossible at that time to have brought the case before his predecessor with a view to getting a decision from him in respect of it. The Papers were immensely voluminous, and to study them completely would occupy the time not only of the Attorney General, who had other things to do, but of several of the most careful and most experienced counsel, and that time had been given to them. He did not believe it would have been possible to have brought anything like a *primâ facie* case before the Attorney General in January, but, nevertheless, all parties were so anxious to know what might be done, that informally the matter was brought before his predecessor at that time. If it had been brought before him formally, he would not have had the means of knowing in what way he was to decide. Late in April—on the 27th, he believed—when there was a fuller knowledge of the circumstances, the matter was brought formally before the then Attorney General. On that occasion he (Sir J. Rigby) knew nothing of it, and it was no part of his business to know anything about it, but what information he possessed he had learned by inquiry in May or June. Of course, it was easy to say that a great number of respectable people had been sufferers by these transactions. Unhappily that was so, and very great misery had been occasioned by the maladministration of these different Companies, but it was a very different thing to say that and to bring home by legal evidence a criminal charge against the persons who had been at the head of those Companies. They had learnt that to their cost already. It was as dangerous to be premature in making an attack of that kind as it was to be too late. He quite agreed with the hon. Gentleman that an assurance that it was not to the public interest that information should be made known should not be used for the purpose of shirking responsibility, and he ventured to say that the insinuation that it had been so used ought not to have been made, unless the hon. Gentleman had better knowledge than he possessed upon which to found it. It was patent to all those who were consulted professionally and who were in possession of the exact facts of the case that a prosecution might be more effectually instituted if they could put into the dock the man who had been described by the hon. Gentleman as the principal author of these frauds. If no case could be made against him, it would be difficult, he would not say impossible, to make a case against those who were, or might be, responsible in the secondary degree. However that might be —and he did not say that that was not one of the considerations—his predecessor in the latter part of April came to the conclusion that, in the interests of justice and not in order to shirk responsibility, or from any of those motives so kindly suggested by the hon. Gentleman——

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I never suggested or insinuated motives. There are many painful suspicions current among the public outside, to which I have not even referred. The only statement which I made was that the plea of the public interest should not be lightly put forward as an excuse for withholding information.

Sir J. RIGBY said, he understood that complaint had been made by the hon. Gentleman that he had put forward that plea as an excuse for not giving information. At any rate, after the hon. Gentleman's explanation he should know in the future that if he (Sir J. Rigby) made that statement again he might expect to have it allowed that he did so under a grave sense of responsibility, and that the assertion was not made with any idea of shirking responsibility or cloaking want of energy or want of investigation on the part of the authorities. The statement he had previously made, that it was not to the public interest that he should explain what had been done in the case, was made under a grave sense of responsibility. Whether the hon. Member was satisfied or not, that was still the only answer he could properly give. He had already told the House that at the end of April his predecessor came to a certain conclusion, one point of which was that prosecutions were not to be immediately brought forward. When he succeeded to the office of Attorney General he felt it his duty to inquire into the matter personally, and to take the opinion of those who had been engaged in going through the vast mass of facts necessary to a prosecution; and he now stated again on his own responsibility—without in the least attempting to shield himself behind his predecessor—that it was not to the public interest that the Government should say what they would do or would not do in the matter. That there had been any kind of negligence, want of investigation or careful consideration in the case, and still less any attempt to shirk responsibility, he absolutely and emphatically denied. It was not to the public interest that any further explanation should be made at the present time.

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT said, he was perfectly willing to accept the statement of the Attorney General that he had acted in the manner which he believed was best for the public interest. But he ventured to say that the general opinion would be, when the reply of the hon. and learned Gentleman came to be read, that he had not given any adequate or satisfactory reason for the extraordinary delay that had occurred in taking action in the case. Ten months ago the main facts, as embodied in the Report of the Official Receiver, were known to the public. The facts, therefore, must have been before the Law Officers of the Crown for over eight months, and, in spite of what the Attorney General had said, doubtless with great force and conviction, he did not think the delay in taking action had been fully and properly explained. He believed that much stronger reasons for the delay would be demanded by the public and by Parliament if the offenders in the case should ultimately escape justice.

Vote agreed to.

21. £3,945, to complete the sum for Crofters' Commission.

Mr. WEIR said, he hoped to get some information from the Secretary for Scotland as to the basis upon which fair rents were fixed by the Crofter Commissioners. He had on various occasions attempted to get information on this subject, but without success. He hoped they would be more successful to-night. The people in the Highlands ought to know on what basis they were rented. On the Island of Lewis, on Lady Matheson's estate, in 208 cases the old rent was £591 9s. 5d., and the fair rents fixed by the Commissioners were £392 18s. Arrears had been reduced from £4,863 8s. 11d. to £1,194 12s. In individual cases rents had been reduced from £4 3s. to £2, from £4 10s. to £3 12s., from £3 12s. to £3 6s., and so on. There was nothing to show on what basis this was done. Some time ago he had visited two crofts. The old rent of each was £26. Well, the Commissioners decided that the rent of one should be £10, and the rent of the other £16. He was assured that these crofts were very much alike, and the man who had had his rent reduced to £16 only said, "Why should my neighbour have his rent reduced to £10—£6 more than mine? What reason is there for this?" He (Mr. Weir) hoped the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for Scotland would give them some reason for these extraordinary differences. He should like to refer to the case of a man named John Mackenzie, of Lochalsh, Ross-shire, who appealed against the Crofter Commission in December, 1891. His rent had been £8, and it was reduced to £4, and the £48 of arrears were reduced to £12, to be paid in three instalments of £4 each. Well, it seemed that the county rate collector was entitled to assess on the whole rent, but if the man disputed it he had to deposit the whole rate. The Secretary for Scotland could not be aware of the unfortunate position in which such proceedings placed these poor people. To lodge the whole rate was a very serious matter. It might mean selling the only cow or the only sheep or two sheep the man possessed. These men had not sovereigns and half-sovereigns to lodge with the county collector. Moreover, it was very hard that these appeals should stand over for years. It was necessary that all the Commissioners should be present during appeal cases. On the 20th of April this year he received a communication from the Crofters' Commission intimating that, owing to the illness they all regretted of Sheriff Brand, the Court had not been able to take up the consideration of the cases requiring the attention of the three Commissioners as an Appeal Court. He was glad Sheriff Brand was better, but it appeared to him that the Secretary for Scotland worked Sheriff Brand far too hard. He was the principal Commissioner at a salary of £1,200, he was also Chairman of the Deer Forest Commission, and he received £700 from the Consolidated Fund as Sheriff of Ayr. It appeared to him that this unfortunate man was simply being slaved to death. His large income might be some consolation to him, but it was no consolation to the people for whom the work had to be done. It would be interesting to know who attended to his duties as Sheriff of Ayr, and who paid the person who attended to these duties while Sheriff Brand was wandering all over the Highlands. He hoped the Secretary for Scotland would tell the House what number of the 682 appeals recently existing had been cleared off. He wished an explanation of the sum of £100 paid as remuneration to Sheriff clerks. He failed to see any number of Scottish or Highland Members in the House, and therefore he would refrain from making a Motion, hoping that the right hon. Gentleman would be able to give a satisfactory account of the Commission.

Dr. CLARK said, that he was glad to say that the Crofters' Commission was being able to do its work, and that large arrears had been wiped off. The Chairman had done his work remarkably well, but he (Dr. Clark) hoped that before long they would abolish Sheriffs altogether. In his spare time he could have been acting as advocate. Instead of that he was acting as Chairman of this Commission. He (Dr. Clark) did not object to his salary, but he objected to the character of the Sub-Commissioners, who were of the same class as the Commissioners. To send to the Highlands a Sheriff, a factor, and a large farmer, was a course which ought not to have been taken. On the whole, the Commissioners had done their duty fairly well, and during the last two or three years some good work had been accomplished by the Sub-Commissioners and valuers. But he did not altogether approve of the principle which had been acted upon in appointing the Sub-Commissioners and valuers. Large farmers and factors had generally been chosen for the posts, and he would suggest that there were numbers of small farmers of the crofter class and dealers in cattle who knew the various counties well, and who would command the confidence of the crofters much more readily than those actually appointed.

*SIR G. TREVELYAN said, he was quite certain that much of what his hon. Friend had said would appeal to the judgment and good sense of almost every one in the Highlands, and if the hon. Member for Ross-shire took a Division in order to reduce the salary of the Crofters' Commission, on the ground that it did not command confidence in the Highlands, he would not carry the House with him. While Sheriff Brand had just now undoubtedly too much to do, every one who knew the difficulty of the work would be very unwilling, indeed, that he should cease to take part in it. As Chairman of the Crofters' Commission he had secured confidence in the Highlands not only among the tenants but also among the landlords, many of whom were now feeling that their relations with their tenantry had never been so satisfactory. The tenants felt, too, that their cases had been fully inquired into. Their rents had been reduced, and arrears had been cancelled. The way in which he presided over the Crofters' Commission convinced the Government that it was desirable to place him at the head of the Highland Commission. For that he did not receive five guineas a day, as had been suggested, but he had only the ordinary travelling allowances. Sheriff Brand had had a terrible struggle, and in his efforts to give the invaluable assistance of his special knowledge of the Highlands his health had suffered greatly. But by the middle of next month his duties in connection with the survey of the Highlands would have been brought to the close, and then there would only remain the preparation of the Report. The only serious drawback was the one referred to by his hon. Friend, the delay in disposing of appeals, but he could reassure the Committee on that point, for when Sheriff Brand was discharged from the Land Commission duties he would soon dispose of the 393 cases which stood on the list on the 30th of June last. The current work of the Commission in fixing rents was being carried on with celerity, and he believed there never was a Judicial Body which had more completely fulfilled the purposes for which it was created or more completely commanded public confidence.

MR. WEIR asked for an explanation of the item of £100 for Sheriffs' clerks.

SIR G. TREVELYAN: That goes to the clerks themselves for work actually done.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon, &c.) said, some arrangement was made by the right hon. Gentleman in the course of the present year that an official of this Commission should give evidence as to its work before the Welsh Land Commission, because that work had been done so well as to create a sincere desire that the Welsh Commission should be informed how it had been carried on. Accordingly, Sir Colin Moncrieff was deputed to give the evidence for the Crofters' Commission. But, as a matter of fact, he knew nothing of the subject personally, he was not a Commissioner, and he had to get his information second-hand. He had been assured by some of the Scotch Members that the evidence thus given was not at all reliable, and he therefore trusted that Sheriff Brand would be directed to give evidence, and an arrangement had accordingly been made that it should be passed *pro formâ*, and Report taken early the next evening, so that the matter might be fully discussed. This was agreed to with a view to finishing Committee of Supply that night and enabling the Prorogation to take place on Friday.

MR. A. C. MORTON: Does the right hon. Gentleman propose to take to-night the Report of Supply voted on Saturday?

SIR W. HARCOURT: Yes, so far as the Votes are unopposed. If any require further discussion they will be postponed.

MR. A. C. MORTON: If I mention one or two Votes, will the right hon. Gentleman postpone them?

SIR W. HARCOURT: I would rather that the hon. Member mentioned one than two.

MR. A. C. MORTON: I am afraid that I shall have to mention three.

SIR G. TREVELYAN said, it was intended that both Sheriff Brand and the hon. Member for Sutherlandshire should attend.

Vote agreed to.

CLASS IV.

22. Motion made, and Question proposed,

"That a sum, not exceeding £3,155,589, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for Public Education in England and Wales, including Expenses of the Education Office in London."

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said, this was really a very important Vote. Several questions were to be raised upon it; information was required from the Government on several points, and he proposed, therefore, to move to report Progress, in order that he might elicit some information as to the intentions of the Government in regard to affording a proper opportunity for discussing it.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

SIR W. HARCOURT said, he had received a communication that afternoon to the effect it was very much desired that the Education Vote should not be taken that night.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: When will the Report of the 1st June be taken?

SIR W. HARCOURT: Not until to-morrow.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I will not press the Motion for Progress.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

23. £361,122, to complete the sum for Science and Art Department.

DR. CLARK said, he regretted being unable to allow that Vote to pass on account of the action of the Treasury, and if they failed to give him a promise that his views would be met in regard to the grants he would have to press the matter to a Division.

MR. BARTLEY: Is not this included in the Education Vote which it has been arranged shall be discussed to-morrow?

SIR W. HARCOURT: Yes. I do not think it is quite fair to those hon. Members who have gone away on the understanding that the Education Vote will not be taken to-morrow. I hope the hon. Member will postpone his remarks till to-morrow.

DR. CLARK: I was no party to that agreement. I passed the matter over last year, and I am not going to do so again; I might have raised it on No. 7 Vote—that for the Universities and Colleges of Great Britain.

SIR W. HARCOURT: Will it not do to-morrow?

DR. CLARK: Yes; but a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. He had better go on with his remarks. The injustice to Scotland was so patent that he hoped to get some satisfaction from the Treasury. His complaint was that while about £20,000 was spent upon the Royal College of Science in London, and £7,000 upon the Royal College of Science in Dublin, no assistance was given to the College of Science in Glasgow, an Institution which was started a century ago, and from which all these Colleges of Science had sprung. It had been attempting for years to get from the Treasury some grant for the same kind of work as was subsidised by the Government in kindred Institutions, so that Scotch boys might be educated at home, instead of being compelled to come up to London to take up scholarships and exhibitions. If these grants were made to Ireland, why were they not made to Scotland? It had been suggested that the grant could not be made to the Glasgow College because it did not teach arts as well as science; but surely that was not a sufficient reason for excluding it entirely from this Vote. There were plenty of other places where the arts were taught. Unless he got some stronger reason he would have to move a reduction of the Vote.

Mr. BRYCE said, his hon. Friend seemed to complain that Scotland had allotted to it an insufficient share of the grant for Universities and Colleges in Great Britain.

Dr. CLARK: No; that point I intend to raise under another Vote. We complain that while you spend £20,000 for certain purposes in England, and £7,000 in Ireland, you refuse Scotland money altogether for the same purposes.

Sir J. T. HIBBERT replied that the case of England and Ireland differed from that of Scotland, which got its fair share of the grant for technical education. The Education Department Committee decided that the Technical College of Glasgow had no claim for a grant out of the £15,000 distributed by the Committee.

Dr. CLARK said, he was not complaining of the general science and arts grant, because Scotland got more of that than either England or Ireland. He was speaking particularly of two Votes, one to the Royal College of Science in London—known formerly as the School of Mines. In that Institution there were four Professors at £800 a year and some at £400, five assistants at £600 and £400 a year, lecturers at £200 a year, a Museum, 12 Exhibitions at £50 a year, and several Scholarships at £15 a year. In all, in that College £20,000 a year was spent on technical education in training young men as engineers and fitting them to take charge of chemical works and of mines. There was a similar Institution in Ireland, and thus English and Irish boys were granted special facilities. But Scotland was refused a share of the money voted by Parliament for these Institutions, although they had in that country an Institution started a century ago fully competent to give technical education. Not only was a grant refused, but the Treasury had refused to listen to a deputation on the subject.

Sir J. T. HIBBERT repeated that the claim of the Glasgow Institution had already been inquired into by the proper authorities and rejected.

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint, &c.) said, he desired to draw the attention of the Committee to the Vote, with a view to showing the injustice with which the Principality of Wales was treated in regard to Museum grants. Of late years the House had begun to recognise the great debt which the United Kingdom owed to Wales in the matter of education. The country was comparatively poor; its educational endowments had been until recently extremely small; the people were enthusiastically devoted to the cause of education; and the money which had been spent there for educational purposes had been well applied. He admitted in recent years they had received grants for their University Colleges, and during this year the present Government had earned the gratitude of the Welsh people by granting a Charter to the Welsh University. He desired especially to acknowledge the great services which the right hon. Gentleman the Vice President of the Council (Mr. Acland) had rendered to Wales in this respect. No English Minister had ever taken a truer, deeper, or more heartfelt interest in Wales than the right hon. Gentleman. He (Mr. Herbert Lewis) had had the honour to be associated with him in educational work outside the walls of this House, and the ardour with which he threw himself into the organisation of intermediate education in Wales, and subsequently the success with which he advocated the claims of Wales to a National University, not to speak of his cordial recognition of the Welsh language in elementary schools, had earned for him the gratitude and esteem of Welshmen. But what Wales had received from the Imperial Parliament was only an instalment of what was due to her. Speaking on another Vote on Saturday last, he proved that Wales had been a loser of over £110,000 by the policy of the Woods and Forests Department, and in many other ways Wales had a strong claim—he would not say upon the generosity—but upon the justice of England. Now in regard to this particular grant he found that the sum of £20,385 was voted for the Dublin Museum of Science and Art, £6,908 for the Dublin Royal College of Science, £300 for the Royal Hibernian Academy, and

£12,606 for the Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art, making a total for Scotland and Ireland of £40,199. These grants were in addition to the large grants made to Universities and University Colleges in Ireland and Scotland. The figures he had given included no expenditure on capital account; that belonged to a former year, and he was precluded by the Rules of the House from referring to it except to say that the Government, very wisely he thought, a short time ago presented Ireland with a National Museum and Library at a cost which did not fall far short of £150,000. He made no complaint whatever of these grants, but he did claim that the right of Wales to a due share of them should be recognised. If they were told that they had their share in the British Museum, he replied that every Scotchman from Glasgow or every Irishman from Dublin had the same property in the British Museum that every Welshman from Carnarvon or Cardiff had. His point in this connection was that Wales, like Ireland and Scotland, had her own separate system of education, and that a National Museum, Library, and Art Gallery were necessary to complete it. On elementary education a separate Report was issued for Wales, and separate provisions were made in the Code in regard, for instance, to the teaching of the Welsh language. Wales had her own intermediate school system, and in regard to higher education they had a Welsh University to which most of the Colleges in Wales were affiliated. Just as they had their share in the British Museum, so they had their share in the University of London, but that had not prevented them from having a separate University for Wales. The separate educational needs of Wales had been repeatedly recognised by Liberal and Conservative Governments, and all they asked was that that policy should be carried to its just and logical conclusion, and that regard should be paid to the representations made by all the best educational authorities in Wales. It was well-known that a great deal more was done for Museums on the Continent than in this country. There was no country in the world where education had been brought to such a high pitch of perfection as Switzerland, nor was there any country where the value of Museums in connection with elementary and intermediate education was more thoroughly realised. In Switzerland, Museums were attached even to elementary schools. The teachers found them extremely useful in aiding them to impart object-lessons to their scholars; old scholars took a pride in their School Museums, and they frequently enriched them by making presents of articles which they had brought from foreign countries. The Swiss were a thoroughly practical people; they had found education to pay in the lower and more material sense as well as in the higher interests of life, and the fact that they attached a high value to Museums was of considerable significance. Now that the intermediate school system had been established in Wales, he hoped that a portion of this Museum grant would be set aside in future for the purpose of enabling them to have Museums attached to those schools. Owing to the enormous extension of technical teaching, in consequence of the expenditure by English County Councils of the money accruing to them under the Local Taxation Act, the demands upon South Kensington had increased very considerably, and it would be far more difficult in future than it had been in the past for local schools to obtain models and plaster casts from South Kensington. A Welsh Museum, supported by Imperial funds, would do much to overcome this difficulty. There was another side to the Museum question of considerable interest. He referred to collections of antiquities and of historical objects. Wales, he regretted to say, had lost many of her most valuable antiquities. One constantly heard accounts of the way in which treasures of great antiquarian value were lost because there was no common centre to which they could be taken. Notwithstanding the dispersion of many private collections, he believed that there were still a large number of articles of historical value which could be placed in a National Museum, and there would in the future be many a private collector who would be only too glad to bequeath to the safe keeping of the nation the treasures which he had spent a lifetime in acquiring. But there was a practical side to the Museum question, as everyone who took an interest in educational matters was well aware. A Museum of Science and Act was a necessary supplement to technical education, and in the interests of agricultural education, and of the trades and industries represented in Wales, he asked the right hon. Gentleman to grant them their reasonable request. The grants to Scotland and Ireland also included provision for National Libraries. Wales was, perhaps, as deserving in this respect as any country in the world. The Welsh people, as a whole, were more addicted to literature than any other people, and yet they had no National Library of their own, and not a penny was granted from Imperial funds for this purpose. There was no common national centre to which ancient manuscripts and books of historical value could be brought. Then, again, while Scotland and Ireland were provided with National Galleries, Wales received nothing under this head. Much might be done to encourage native Art. The natural beauty of the country had caused a number of artists to make Wales their home, at all events during the summer months. They had founded an Academy of Art, and they deserved every encouragement. In view of the excellent use to which educational grants to Wales had been applied, and having regard to the injustice with which Wales had been treated in the matter of Imperial grants generally, in connection with such subjects as light railways and fisheries, he hoped the Chancellor of the Exchequer would see his way to performing an act of justice to Wales by giving Wales a share of the Museum grants. He would thereby promote the study of Literature, Science and Art in the Principality, and those great moral and material interests to which those studies so largely contributed.

Sir W. HARCOURT said, he did not think it could be said that the claims of Wales had been neglected by him. The Government would always be ready to consider the claims of Wales, and he submitted that the Government had some right to claim that in the past Session they had not neglected the interests of Wales.

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS again assured the Chancellor of the Exchequer that there was no want of gratitude on the part of Welsh Members for the grants recently made to Wales. They were exceedingly grateful to him. But his contention was that these grants were only instalments of justice, and he only wished it were possible to have an inquiry into the financial relations between England and Wales. He was sure that Wales would not be found the debtor, and that the justice of his claim on behalf of Wales would be vindicated.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE said, the Chancellor of the Exchequer had made no answer to the claim of Wales to a fair share of these Museum grants. There was no point in the statement of the hon. Member for Islington that there were parts of England which were treated in the same fashion as Wales.

***Mr. WEIR** said, he was glad to hear that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was treating the case of Wales in a liberal spirit, and he wished to appeal to him on the part of the Celt in the Highlands. He would like to have loans of works of art for the use of the girls and boys at Stornoway, Inverness, Dingwall, and other centres in the Highlands.

Mr. BARTLEY said, he thought Wales got a full share of consideration in this matter. He knew something about the matter, because he was at South Kensington for 20 years.

Vote agreed to.

The following Votes were agreed to:—

24. £80,279, to complete the sum for British Museum.

25. £11,368 (including a Supplementary sum of £5,000), to complete the sum for National Gallery.

26. £825, to complete the sum for National Portrait Gallery.

27. £14,247, to complete the sum for Scientific Investigation, &c.

28. £50,094, to complete the sum for Universities and Colleges, Great Britain, and Intermediate Education, Wales.

Dr. CLARK called attention to the case of Dundee College. He said it had been agreed that Dundee should have £500 for one year, as it was to become a College of the University of St. Andrews. That was six years ago, but Dundee College had not become a portion of the University of St. Andrews, and the recommendation of the last Committee which sat was that it should get no money, but he understood that a supplementary sum was to be given to Dundee College. By the Treaty of Union, the maintenance of the Scottish National Gallery and the Scottish Universities were portions of the liabilities which the Imperial Parliament was to take up. Six years ago the Chancellor of the Exchequer agreed that £42,000 should be handed over to the Universities Commission for the four Scottish Universities, and since then £30,000 had been added out of the local taxation account, that amount being based on a theory as to the proportions paid by England, Ireland, and Scotland towards Probate Duty. What he wanted was a fair equivalent for Scotland for the money spent for educational purposes in England and Ireland. He believed that the Science and Art Department were using the word "arts" in the sense of languages. He thought the scientific branch of education was of much more importance than the classical, and he should be sorry if they were going on the old monkish ways, and were going to support classics in preference to science. Dundee was an Arts College, a Medical College, a Science College, a College teaching, in fact, every department except, he believed, theology. If grants were given to the Colleges in connection with the Victoria University and other Universities, he thought Dundee ought to have her fair share. Three Committees had sat upon the subject. The first of them suggested £500 for Dundee; the second had suggested that Dundee should get her fair share, but the last had made a different recommendation. He believed that the President of the Board of Trade was a member of both Committees, and perhaps he could say why the last Committee had gone contrary to the recommendations of the previous Committee.

SIR W. HARCOURT: My hon. Friend might have spared his speech if he had known the facts of the case. The real truth is that I settled this matter of the Dundee College some weeks ago with the hon. Member for Dundee on a footing which he thinks entirely satisfactory. The last Committee did not consider that the Dundee College could have this grant on account of the measures now being taken to affiliate it to the University, but those measures are not yet complete, and therefore I think that the grant Dundee already has should be continued for a year at least, until it is affiliated to the University, when it will derive much larger advantages. Until the future situation of Dundee is settled, the *status in quo* is regarded as satisfactory by the authorities at Dundee.

DR. CLARK said, the Government were simply doing again what was done six years ago when they granted only £500 instead of £1,200. It was not fair, because the Scotch people were using the money not for local taxes but for educational purposes, to refuse to give them a fair share of the grant for secondary and higher education. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that if the Dundee College were affiliated to St. Andrews University it would get its share of the £50,000 grant. But that grant was their own money. It was the old story of the equivalent. Scotland ought to have an equivalent for what England got.

MR. CALDWELL said, there was a note in the Estimates stating that the money was granted under Section 25 of the Universities (Scotland) Act of 1889 in full discharge of all claims on public money. The Scotch Members could not allow an observation of that kind to go unchallenged, as the Universities Act was only passed upon the understanding that similar words were struck out of it.

SIR W. HARCOURT: I am entirely against remarks being put in the Estimates, and therefore I am perfectly willing to strike out every remark of this character which is entirely irrelevant to an Estimate.

Vote agreed to.

The following Votes were agreed to:—

29. £5, to complete the sum for London University.

30. £485,449, to complete the sum for Public Education, Scotland.

31. £2,150, to complete the sum for National Gallery, &c., Scotland.

CLASS V.

32. £201,235, to complete the sum for Diplomatic and Consular Services.

33. £213, to complete the sum for Slave Trade Services.

34. £79,675 (including a Supplementary sum of £5,750), to complete the sum for Colonial Services, including South Africa.

Dr. CLARK observed that a new Supplementary Estimate of £35,000 for the new Protectorate in Nyassaland appeared on the Vote. He understood that the expenses were to be defrayed by the Chartered Company, which would pay all the cost of Mr. Johnston and his staff. He wished to know why this large sum had been sprung upon the Committee at the end of the Session.

The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. S. Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) asked the hon. Member to raise the question on Report, when the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir E. Grey) was present.

Dr. CLARK said, there was a great increase in the Bechuanaland grant in aid. Was it temporary or permanent?

Mr. S. BUXTON said, that last year the sum of £82,500 was granted, and there was a saving from previous years. This year, the savings having been expended, they had to take this larger sum. It had nothing to do with the expenditure incurred by the war.

Mr. A. C. MORTON (Peterborough) asked when the Committee was to have the opportunity which had been promised for discussing the grant of £20,000 for the British Bechuanaland Railway? A distinct pledge was given earlier in the year that there would be an opportunity of discussing the Agreement before the grant was made.

Mr. S. BUXTON: We had a discussion in regard to this matter last year, when the Papers were presented. It was then promised by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and also by myself that before the Agreement was signed by the Government the Papers should be laid on the Table in sufficient time for Members before Supply came on to consider them, and that, as far as possible, an opportunity should be given for discussion. It is true that this evening we are pressed for time, but I believe there will be plenty of opportunities to discuss the question on Report to-morrow.

Mr. A. C. MORTON said that, in his opinion, all the time to-morrow had been more than mortgaged, and his opinion was that the promise of the Government had not been kept. The Papers were not laid on the Table until the 9th of August, and since then there had been no opportunities of discussion. It ought to have been presented much earlier, or else postponed till next Session.

Mr. S. BUXTON: The Agreement was only come to on the 1st or 2nd of August, and the very afternoon on which it was signed I laid the Agreement on the Table, and it was circulated next day to Members, so that there has really been no delay.

Mr. A. C. MORTON said, he understood the Agreement was presented on the 9th of August.

Mr. S. BUXTON: That was the Minute.

Mr. BARTLEY observed, that a most distinct pledge had been given by the Government that there should be an opportunity of discussing this matter, and the Government had failed to fulfil that promise. It was perfectly childish to say that there was now an opportunity for discussion, as it was 12 minutes to 12 o'clock, and there were some 20 more Votes to take. The distinct promise made by the Government, therefore, had absolutely not been fulfilled.

Sir J. T. HIBBERT: I think my hon. Friend has gone rather far in his complaint. It is not the fault of the Government that the House has had no opportunity of discussing the question. Gentlemen opposite are quite as much responsible for this as the Government. If there is no time to-morrow for taking a discussion on this question it can be easily taken on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

Mr. TOMLINSON remarked that it was the duty of the House to discuss on the Estimates all questions of public policy, and the Government, having taken the whole time of the House for an unusually long period of the Session, had failed to make any provision out of that time for the fair and reasonable discussion of the Estimates.

Vote agreed to.

35. £29,100, to complete the sum for Subsidies to Telegraph Companies, agreed to.

36. £45,000 (Supplementary), to complete the sum for Uganda, agreed to.

37. £35,000, to complete the sum for British Central Africa.

MR. TOMLINSON asked whether all these important subjects were to be discussed on Report to-morrow?

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall) asked whether it was intended to postpone the Report of the Foreign Office Supply until To-morrow, as he understood there was some opposition to its being taken to-night. If it was to be postponed he would not raise any question upon this Vote.

SIR J. T. HIBBERT said, the present intention was to take the Report of the Foreign Office Votes to-night, but he would confer with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the subject.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT said, as the Report might not come on until the late hours of the morning he had better make the remarks he had to make now. The Anglo-Belgian Convention had been, by the action of the German and French Governments, practically abrogated. Very little of that Convention remained, and the important point on which he wished to ask for an assurance from the Under Secretary was this: by that Convention it was understood that the Congo State was to be pushed forward as a buffer between the Nile waterway and the advance of the French——

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir E. GREY, Northumberland, Berwick) said, this Vote referred only to British Central Africa, which was Nyassaland.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT said, he had asked the question, and had been informed that this Vote raised the question of the Congo region. As that question did not apparently arise, however, he would defer his remarks to the Report stage.

Vote agreed to.

CLASS VI.

38. £231,454, to complete the sum for Superannuations and Retired Allowances, agreed to.

39. £4,300, to complete the sum for Merchant Seamen's Fund Pensions, agreed to.

40. £21,713, to complete the sum for Savings Banks and Friendly Societies Deficiency.

MR. BARTLEY said, that one of the results of scamping Supply in this way was that questions of this kind could not be gone into. He would ask whether the increase in the Vote was owing to the rise in the price of Consols, and consequently the smaller margin in which to work these institutions?

SIR J. T. HIBBERT: Yes, that is the cause of the increase.

Vote agreed to.

£41. £1,125, to complete the sum for Miscellaneous Charitable and other Allowances, Great Britain, agreed to.

CLASS VII.

42. Motion made, and Question proposed,

"That a sum, not exceeding £21,959, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for the Salaries and other Expenses of the Temporary Commissions and Committees, including Special Inquiries."

MR. BARTLEY said, there was an item of £7,000 for the salaries and expenses of the Opium Commission. He did not wish to debate the question of the Commission now, but would deal with it when they had the Report before the House.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said, he had a question to ask as to the Welsh Land Commission.

MR. WEIR said, his Motion as to the Colonisation Board would come first.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, that comes earlier.

*MR. WEIR asked for information with regard to the working of the Colonisation Board. He should like to be told as to the treatment of Alexander Young, a crofter settler. On the 24th of May he had put a question as to this case. Young complained that he and his family had received ill-treatment from the Agent of the Imperial Colonisation Board. These gentlemen stated that—

> "The position of the Saltcoats crofters is not so satisfactory. Owing partly to a series of unsatisfactory seasons, the families remaining in the Settlement had not increased the cultivation of their farms to the extent that would have been anticipated. The spring of last year was rather late, and, consequently, some of the crofters who asked to be assisted with seed grain and potatoes did not sow all that was supplied to them, but disposed of it in other ways."

Yes, they disposed of it to purchase meal to make porridge. The Report went on to say—

> "They would have been in a much better position than they are now in that respect but for the number of stock lost in the Settlement in the winter of 1892-3, as mentioned in our previous Report. This was largely owing to the abnormal winter and to insufficient fodder having been provided for the sustenance of the animals. It is gratifying to notice that the agent in his Report considers the crofters remaining at Saltcoats to be on the fair road to success, and that the experience they have passed through will have a good effect upon their future."

The good effect was that of the 49 colonists that were there only 18 were left. Further on the Report stated—

> "The first instalment of the debt of the Saltcoats settlement became due in the autumn of last year. It has not been paid, and, in the circumstances already alluded to, it is probable that some indulgence will have to be extended to the settlers, a matter which is now having the consideration of the Board."

He did not wish to detain the Committee one minute longer than was necessary by quotations from the Report, but he must refer to what Sir Charles Tupper said. In his communication to the Secretary of Scotland, he said—

> "Even if they were in a position to pay I am strongly of the opinion that it would be to their interest to spend any available funds they might have in improving their farms and in adding to their stock. They would then be in a much better position a year or two hence to liquidate their obligations, and it would distinctly encourage them to persevere."

Then he went on to say—

> "Mr. Borradaile, in writing at the end of November last, after a visit he had paid to the colony, stated 'the only complaint to me by the crofters was that the low prices offered for their grain would not permit them to meet their obligations to the Board. All the crofters assured me they would pay their municipal indebtedness out of the proceeds of this year's crop.' They certainly ought to have no difficulty in doing what they promised, and also in paying a portion of their other debts, and to permit of this being done I recommend that the repayment of the instalments to the Board should be deferred for a year or two. Besides, as in the case of the Saltcoats settlers, I am of the opinion that they could with advantage spend any spare funds in improving their farms and in adding to their stock. It must be remembered, in considering the position of both the Killarney and Saltcoats Settlements, that the prices of grain of all kinds and of other farm produce have in the last two years much depreciated —in the case of grain to the extent of nearly one-half. Had prices been maintained the condition of the crofters to-day would have been very much better."

What he objected to was that these poor crofters should be taken away from the Highlands and sent out to a foreign land to do as best they could for themselves, and then when poverty came upon them the Colonisation Board pounced down upon them. Mr. M'Neil, the Secretary to the Board of Supervision, was allowed to go to the Island of Lewis for the purpose of canvassing these crofters and urging them to emigrate to Saltcoats and Killarney. He thought the Secretary to the Board of Supervision should not be allowed to do that.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Sir G. TREVELYAN, Glasgow, Bridgeton): What was the date of that?

*MR. WEIR said, it was some time ago. He had also to complain of the salaries which were paid to the Secretary in London and to the Agent in Canada. He thought the time had arrived when this expenditure of British taxpayers' money in connection with this colonisation scheme should cease. The scheme had not been a satisfactory one, and, in justice to the people of this country, they ought not to be called upon to pay these sums of money to prop up a scheme which was absolutely rotten and unsound. He trusted the Secretary for Scotland would take steps at an early date to stop this expenditure of public money.

SIR G. TREVELYAN said, the use of the Estimates was that hon. Members might call the Government to account; but he found it exceedingly difficult to know why his hon. Friend had made this attack on the Government. The Government had come to the conclusion that this colonisation scheme, though it was started with the very best intentions, was a wrong policy, and they had not sent out a single crofter. The class of persons Parliament intended to benefit had found by experience that it was disadvantageous to them, and that opinion, he thought, was shared by others. What was the charge his hon. Friend brought against the Government? That they had been too kind to the colonists. The colonists at this moment owed to the nation the instalments that were due, and the Government had not exacted one single halfpenny. They had refused to pay their municipal tax, and the result was that the Local Government had sold up their farms, and at this moment they were in the position of a tenant who had received a notice of eviction in Ireland. That was at Killarney. He did not think any exception could be taken to the policy of the Government in this respect. They had sent out no more colonists, and they had forborne pressing for their rent from those who were out. The only matter the hon. Member could take exception to was that they paid £150 a year to the Secretary of the Colonisation Board in England, and £250 to the Agent in Canada. Would the hon. Member really wish that this country should absolutely cut itself adrift from these poor emigrants? He thought he would be the very last one to wish such a thing. They must keep up the very small staff by which they were able to watch their proceedings, and to extend to them, he must say, the great deal of national generosity which had up to this time been exceedingly sustaining. He believed it would be a very cruel kindness to cut the connection absolutely off, and leave the colonists entirely to their own devices. They were not going to send out any more colonists. The scheme was started with good intentions, but had failed, but they could not allow those who were out there perhaps to perish and die away for the want of such assistance as they were able to send out to them from time to time.

MR. WEIR said, he was exceedingly glad to hear that the Government had no intention of carrying out, to any further extent, that cruel policy which was initiated some time ago by the Conservative Government.

DR. CLARK said, the great bulk of these colonists had gone away because they could do very much better at the timber works near them, and in other employments. The land which they purchased for them was practically useless, and the houses were lying empty there. He had visited one of these deserted colonies, travelling some 300 or 400 miles to do so. There was a crofter colony, but the houses stood there, and there was not a soul about, for the people who went there found they could do very much better in the lumber trade, and the bulk of them went to it. As far as Killarney was concerned it had been a failure, and he thought they could leave them to the tender mercies of the Manitoba Government. At Saltcoats, too, he thought it had been a failure. He did not think they would ever get a penny back. If they cared to go on spending this £500 for philanthropic purposes they could do so, but he did not think it worth while, and that the sooner they gave up the whole thing the better it would be for all concerned.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE desired to ask one or two questions with regard to the Welsh Land Commission. He would like to ask the right hon. Gentleman in charge of this Vote whether there was any prospect of the evidence of this Commission being published and circulated among the Members of the House? So far nothing had been done to circulate the mass of evidence taken, and the only opportunity of inspecting it was by the courtesy of the Secretary, in the form of proofs. He would like to know if there was any chance of the evidence being published and circulated amongst the Members. The procedure of the Commission had not been altogether effective, and he would like to know whether, following the precedent of the Labour Commission, it would not be possible for the Land Commission to appoint a number of travelling Commissioners to go about the districts and ascertain the condition of the farmers for themselves, and make investigations as to the nature of their tenure, with regard to the compensation for money expended by them on improvements on their farms, and, generally, into the conditions of their leases.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. ASQUITH, Fife, E.) said, it could not be too clearly understood that the Government had absolutely no jurisdiction whatever over the procedure of a Royal Commission when once it was appointed. The whole value of a Royal Commission as an independent inquiry would be neutralised if the Executive Government—even if they were within their rights—made suggestions to the Commissioners as to the mode in which they should carry out their inquiry, and whatever authority their Reports would otherwise have would in that way be very largely taken away. He should, therefore, certainly not feel it within his province to act in the sense in which the hon. Member had indicated, but he had no doubt the Commissioners would pay attention to the discussions in that House, and that, whatever practical value those suggestions might have, they would give full weight to what had been said by his hon. Friend. As to the other point as to the circulation of the evidence, there again the Commission was master of its own procedure, but he understood the evidence already taken was being printed, and would extend to two considerable volumes.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said, he understood the responsibility of circulating the evidence amongst Members fell entirely upon the Government. He would, therefore, ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he could not undertake to have circulated the evidence which had already been printed?

MR. ASQUITH said, it would be circulated as soon as ever it could be.

*MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN asked whether the power to appoint Assistant Commissioners, as suggested by his hon. Friend the Member for Carnarvon Boroughs, was given by the Warrant constituting the Commission?

MR. ASQUITH said, he had no doubt they had the power.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.) said, he desired to raise the question of the Opium Commission. He did not propose to deal with the duties of the Commission or its work. The only question he wished to raise was the payment by this country of half the cost of that Commission. They had been informed that the other half, £7,000, was to be put on India. He entirely objected to that. This Commission had been appointed by the United Kingdom. Some persons had got an idea——

THE CHAIRMAN: I do not see how the hon. Member can bring that on on this Vote. He cannot increase the charge that this Vote refers to as the amount to be paid by this country.

MR. BARTLEY said, that surely he had the right to discuss the amount put down for this country, and, in discussing it, say he thought England ought to pay the whole. Otherwise, if he could not discuss that, they would have no opportunity of discussing the question. He strongly objected to any part of this charge falling on India. He knew he could not increase the amount, and he saw the illogical position he would be in if he moved to reduce the Vote, because that would simply mean that India would have to pay a still larger share of the cost, and that was not his object. Surely it was constitutional and in order that they should discuss the question, because they had had no opportunity of raising the subject before. He thought it would have been hardly in order in bringing the question up on the Indian Budget. That course would certainly have been rather unusual, and he thought he was quite in order in raising the question now. He would appeal to the Secretary of State for India whether he would not give way on this point. It had been raised several times, and if he would simply say he would consider the question, and make the whole cost come out of England, he should be quite satisfied, and not pursue the matter any further. He thought that when they had qualms of conscience they ought to pay for them. They had got a conscience about this opium question, and he thought that, as they had it, considering the special conditions of the Indian Budget, considering the very bad state of the natives themselves at the present time, and the very large deficiency on the Indian Budget, it seemed a very unfair thing that a country such as this, which was very rich, should absolutely order that India should pay half the cost. India could not answer, and could not say whether she liked it or not. Therefore, he thought it was a reasonable thing to say that if he could get any promise from the Secretary for India that he would consider it, he should be satisfied. If not, he should have to proceed. Therefore, so as to be in order, he ventured formally to move to reduce the Vote by £7,000.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir W. HARCOURT, Derby) said, he hoped the learned Member would not take the course he had suggested. This matter had been carefully considered by the Government. The House insisted on this Commission, and it would be remembered that the Resolution before the House asked for a Vote to be taken to put an end to the opium traffic altogether. It was thought that that was a very extreme measure to be taken, and it was suggested that a full inquiry should be made on the subject in India as to the bearings of the question upon India. So that India had a very direct interest in this Commission. It was felt that interference with the opium traffic would be injurious to India, and upon that ground it was felt that the interests of India in the Commission were as great as the interests of those who desired to deal with the traffic. There was no doubt that there were divergent views on the subject, and it was thought desirable that the whole case of the Indian Government and the Indian people should be properly brought out. He did not intend to express an opinion on the result of the Commission, but it really was greatly to the advantage of the Indian Government to have the matter fully inquired into, and that no premature decision should be come to in this country by those who were, in their opinion, very imperfectly acquainted with the subject, and on which the interests of India largely depended. He thought, therefore, the grounds that the Indian Government had a very distinct interest in this Commission and in the facts being fully brought out justified a portion of the expenses being borne by India. That was the view the Government took, and he thought that on the whole it would be the view taken by the Committee generally.

MR. BARTLEY said, he could not allow the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to pass without a word of protest. The fact was that this Commission was forced upon the Government by a band of crotcheteers, who really did not know what they were doing, and the Government, through their weakness, allowed this Commission to be issued, and, consequently, an enormous expense to be imposed on this country and on India. This Commission was sent to India against the wish of India. It was all very well to say it had been the means of letting light on the subject which was ultimately to benefit India. That might be so, but surely it was unreasonable to compel India to pay heavily in order that the absurd demand of a band of crotcheteers in this country, whose statements had been entirely exposed to be inaccurate and false, might be gratified, and in order to stop a great industry. The Government should have met this question boldly in the first place and refused the demand of these people, and have appealed to the good sense of the House of Commons in the matter. If they had done this they would undoubtedly have had their way, and this country and India would have been saved a great deal of expense.

MR. TOMLINSON (Preston) said, he thought the people of India had a just right to consider this a very ungenerous act on the part of the English Government. There was a feeling that in the relations between India and this country there might be occasions when it was thought that the interests of India might in some sense, either rightly or wrongly, be sacrificed to those of Great Britain. Here they had an instance in which the Government might very fairly have settled this trifling matter. It was only a matter of a few thousands of pounds. This Commission had been instituted not at the request of India nor on the part of the inhabitants of India. It was asked for to satisfy the scruples and the consciences of a large number of people in this country, and surely, if this Commission was appointed to satisfy the scruples of people in this country, the people of the country who had these scruples and this conscience should in all justice pay for it. He could not help feeling that the people of

India had a just right to complain of a charge of this kind, even if it was only half the expense, being put upon them.

Sir R. TEMPLE (Surrey, Kingston) said, he must say a word or two in corroboration of what had fallen from his hon. Friends. There was no desire on the part of the Government of India or the people of India for this Commission. On the contrary, both the Government and the people of India were positively against it, and therefore they both considered it very hard that they should have to bear any portion of the expense.

Sir W. HARCOURT said, he very much shared the opinion that they had very often very unfairly put charges on the Indian Government and the Indian people which ought not to have been put upon them. He did not oppose the matter from that point of view, but he did not think that, when the Government of India had so strong an interest as they had in removing the very strong feeling and opinion that existed here in this matter, it was not unfair to halve the expense. He hoped the hon. Member would not take the illogical course of proposing that a less sum should be paid by England than that which was borne on the Estimates, because that only meant that India would have to pay a still larger sum. That being so, he hoped the hon. Member would not press his Motion, and say that England should pay less than its share. In the circumstances, therefore, he hoped the hon. Member would be satisfied with having stated his views, in which he did not very much differ; but India having a very great interest in the matter, an interest that had been served by the operation of this Commission, he did not think it was unreasonable that India should bear its portion of the cost.

Mr. BARTLEY said, the Chancellor of the Exchequer evidently almost agreed with him that they were doing a shabby trick to India in asking that country to pay £8,000 for really converting this country into knowing something about the opium trade. The Opium Commission had been a useful Commission, and had enlightened the public very much. But they must remember that it was England that had been enlightened, for India knew all about the matter already. They forced this Commission on India, and now they were about to force her to pay half the cost. It was not as if there had been a fair bargain between the two countries, but the matter had been absolutely forced upon India. However, he supposed he must be content with this protest, and, having made it, he begged to withdraw the Amendment.

*Mr. WEBB entirely sympathised with what had been said by the hon. Member for Islington. This Commission was instituted by the present Parliament, and the Indian people were not consulted in the matter. There was, therefore, a certain meanness in calling upon them to pay half the expenses. He could not sit down without protesting against the language of the hon. Member for Sheffield (Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett), which he regarded as very unfair. The hon. Member taunted them with being "a band of crotcheteers." He did not think that those who sympathised with him (Mr. Webb) and his friends on the opium question were, at any rate, entitled to be so described.

Mr. DALZIEL said, there was an item on this Vote for "Commissions not specifically provided for" of £8,000. He should like to ask, was there anything in that for the Labour Commission?

Sir J. T. HIBBERT: There is.

Mr. DALZIEL: I must ask the Government whether they intend to give us an opportunity of discussing this Report, which has been so long in coming, and which is not yet here?

Mr. BARTLEY said, he had got down a separate Amendment to the very item the hon. Gentleman referred to, and here, again, he must protest against the way the Estimate was being voted. The very important question of the Royal Commission on Secondary Education was included in this Vote, on which they had had no opportunity of expressing any opinion. This Commission had produced a great deal of irritation throughout the country. It was a one-sided Commission; it was almost entirely composed of Members who were followers of Her Majesty's Government, and there was hardly any representation of Members on his side of the House upon it. Although he did not say that a matter of this kind should in any way have a political complexion given to it, still, when a Commission was appointed, it ought to be, to some extent, even in its character, so as not to lay itself open to the charge of being biased when its Report came out. This Commission was to investigate, and, possibly, largely influence, all the secondary private schools throughout the country; and, as had been pointed out in questions addressed to this subject, the private schoolmasters and schoolmistresses had been practically ignored on the Commission. Several times during the Session he had desired to call attention to the subject, but there had been no opportunity of doing so. He thought he was not overstating the case when he said that a great deal of apprehension existed on the matter among the *bonâ fide* teachers of private schools throughout the country. When they had referred to this subject the Vice President had stated that a lady had been put on the Commission who represented the Ladies' Public Day School Company, and also one other lady. The Ladies' Public Day School Company—of which he might claim to be one of the founders —had no doubt done a great deal of work in the way of secondary education, but it could not in any way be said to take the place of private adventure schools. It had never been carried on as a commercial undertaking in the strict sense; the directors had never been paid anything; but the Company was started with the object of showing that this system of secondary education could be carried on on a fairly remunerative basis if it was done well. Not only had the Company established 30 or 40 schools, but a great number of similar institutions had sprung from it. They did not claim anything for the Company; and if the work of education could be better done by others, they should be pleased to see it done, and to give every assistance. He protested against the formation of this Commission; he protested still more that they had not had an opportunity of discussing it, and predicted that on account of the way the Commission had been constituted its Report would have but little value.

SIR W. HARCOURT said that, of course, the Report of the Commission could not be discussed upon this Vote. As to the constitution of the Commission, that was not a question upon which they could enter at the present time, but the hon. Member had stated his views upon that matter. It was quite certain that this Commission would not report before the next Session of Parliament, and no doubt the hon. Member would bring the matter forward then, but under no circumstances could he bring it forward now.

MR. BARTLEY: I gather that the right hon. Gentleman hopes that next year we shall have more time on the Estimates?

SIR W. HARCOURT said that, of course, they could always hope.

MR. TOMLINSON (Preston) thought they had a right on this and other matters to ask that the business should be so laid out that they should have a better opportunity of discussing the various questions.

Question put, and agreed to.

43. £1,991, to complete the sum for Miscellaneous Expenses, agreed to.

44. £15,000, to complete the sum for Diseases of Animals, agreed to.

45. £21,000, to complete the sum for Highlands and Islands of Scotland (Public Works and Communications).

MR. WEIR asked for some information from the Secretary for Scotland with regard to the appointment of a new chief, as he understood the present chief of the Commission had left, or was about to leave. He hoped whoever was appointed that he would be an active, energetic man. This Department had been sadly neglected. He urged that more roads ought to be made in various parts of his constituency, especially school paths enabling children to cross the moors; and also advocated the construction of light railways, tramways, and harbours. The hon. Member concluded by moving to reduce the Vote by the sum of £100, in order to give the Secretary for Scotland an opportunity of replying to him.

THE CHAIRMAN observed, that there was no reason why an Amendment of the kind should be moved if the only object of the hon. Member was to obtain information from a Minister.

Sir G. TREVELYAN said, that a large proportion of the money given to Scotland was given to the hon. Member's own constituency. In the single constituency represented by the hon. Gentleman, last year, out of £7,500 for larger works, £4,460 and £1,800 were spent on the constituency. For minor works, out of £3,400, over £2,000 were spent upon that constituency. He must own that the effect of these complaints of his hon. Friend was to make him begin to be rather indifferent to those claims from that constituency, and to begin to think that there was really not much good in pouring out money in a constituency whose Representative always spoke in a grudging way of the liberality of Parliament. He could assure the hon. Member that the works would be pushed forward with all possible celerity.

*Mr. WEIR said, the right hon. Gentleman had accused him of being wanting in gratitude. He could assure the right hon. Gentleman that he had always received the grants for his county in a suitable spirit; but, still, he would remind the Committee that the claims of his county were great.

Vote agreed to.

Mr. DALZIEL moved to report Progress to ascertain whether, if Supply concluded to-night, the Government would consent to the House sitting to-morrow late enough to finish the Report of Supply.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

Sir J. T. HIBBERT said, that was what the Government wished to do.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

The following Votes were agreed to:—

46. £26,948 (including a Supplementary sum of £4,743), Repayment to the Local Loans Fund.

47. £906, Repayments to the Civil Contingencies Fund.

48. £1,000, to complete the sum for Hobart (Tasmania) Exhibition.

The Chairman

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

49. £651,915, to complete the sum for Customs.

50. £1,345,539, to complete the sum for Inland Revenue.

*Mr. WEIR called attention to what he described as a case of hardship, where a crofter's dog had been made subject to the Dog Tax, although the animal was kept for the purpose of protecting the man's cattle and land. The man had been summoned, and although he was not fined, yet he was compelled to travel 140 miles in order to attend the Court. This was a serious matter for one in his position. A demand had been made upon crofters for a tax in respect of the dogs which they kept for protecting cattle. He would remind the Committee that in the case of these men the imposition of 7s. 6d. a year was no light thing, and in some instances might be said to represent half a year's rent.

Sir J. T. HIBBERT did not think the case of which the hon. Gentleman complained was a strong one. It was true the man was a crofter; but crofters were not farmers with sheep and cattle, and the dog was not a sheep dog, but a Skye terrier. He was quite sure that the Inland Revenue Authorities would be disposed to allow persons following the occupation of farmers to keep dogs unlicensed.

*Mr. WEIR said, it was in consequence of the very great consideration he had for the time of the House that he had not furnished himself with the particulars of a number of other cases. He would only say that if a Skye terrier did the work required by a crofter, who is a small farmer, the Skye terrier should not be taxed.

Vote agreed to.

51. £5,287,785, to complete the sum for Post Office.

Mr. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): It would be impossible at this late hour (quarter-past 1 o'clock) to do justice to this Vote. As the Government have promised to bring on the Report at an early hour to-morrow, I will not offer any opposition to the Vote now.

Mr. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) said, he would like to learn from the

Postmaster General whether he was prepared to receive a deputation from the Postmen's Federation with regard to grievances which they desired to lay before him on behalf of postal workers? The right hon. Gentleman had refused to receive a certain deputation; and it would be well to have an expression of opinion from the right hon. Gentleman on the subject.

*THE POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. A. MORLEY, Nottingham, E.): I am ready to receive a deputation from any particular branch of the Post Office Service, but the conditions under which the different classes of postmen work make it impossible for me to receive a deputation purporting to represent several sections of the Service. The rural postmen differ from the urban postmen, and they, again, differ from the London postmen; and it would be inconvenient to receive a deputation representing various classes, when the wages and the conditions of employment are so different. I am ready to receive, and have received, deputations from the sorters, telegraphists, and other classes; and I will receive any deputation, provided there is reasonable ground for it, and provided they come with regard to some particular matter, so that the conversation may be confined to that particular matter.

MR. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) said, he would like to point out to the right hon. Gentleman that there were in the country concerns in which there were various occupations differing as much in character as the different classes of work in the Post Office Service—the railways, for instance, and the employers of the agents of those concerns always consented to receive a deputation as representing all classes in their service. If the right hon. Gentleman would receive a deputation representing all classes of workers in the Post Office Service, it would obviate the inconvenience of postmen coming from all parts of the country, when they could have their views just as well expressed by men on the spot in London.

*MR. WEIR said, he desired to take that opportunity of thanking the right hon. Gentleman the Postmaster General for attending to matters which he had brought under his notice during the past few months. But he wished the right hon. Gentleman could see his way to send mail steamers more frequently to the Ullapool district, and also to fix up letter-boxes at convenient points in districts where there were no Post Offices.

MR. FENWICK (Northumberland, Wansbeck) desired to support the application which his hon. Friend the Member for Mid Durham had made to the Postmaster General. The right hon. Gentleman must be aware that there was a Trades Union—whether he recognised it or not—existing amongst the postmen and telegraphists; and the question was whether the right hon. Gentleman was willing to receive the officers of that Trades Union, and discuss matters with them as the representatives of the postal servants?

*MR. A. MORLEY: As I said, I am willing to receive deputations of Post Office servants, so long as they represent distinct classes of the Service. I make no distinction at all as to the men they should select; they may select any men provided they are members of the Service. My hon. Friend the Member for Mid Durham instanced the case of a large concern, such as a railway. But in such a case would the engine drivers and the porters unite and go in one deputation when the grievances they may suffer from are wholly and totally different? I should say the engine drivers would form one deputation, and the porters another. I say, therefore, that the various classes of the Postal Service should not be mixed up one with another. With regard to the improved mail service which my hon. Friend the Member for Ross desires, I wish he would communicate with me by letter on the subject; but I do not think it would be possible to supply letter-boxes in the sparsely-populated districts to which he referred.

MR. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) said, the Postmaster General did not understand his point. What he meant was that as the Trades Union of railway servants included the different employments on the railway system, the Postmen's Federation included the various sections of the Postal Service; and if that Federation chose any number of officers—whether they belonged to the various sections or not—as a deputation, would the right hon. Gentleman receive them and discuss their grievances with them?

Mr. A. MORLEY: I do not quite understand the question of my hon. Friend. I say that the men belonging to any class of postal servants have the right to send a deputation to me, with regard to the grievances of that class. The members of that deputation may be members and officers of the Trades Union or Federation; I make no restriction of that kind at all—but they must belong to one particular class of servants. I could not allow persons outside the Service to join such a deputation because they are nominated as the officials of a general Trades Union.

Mr. FENWICK said, the right hon. Gentleman should understand that the Secretaries of Trades Unions were not workmen in the strict sense of the term. Many of them were paid officials who did not work in the Service; and in 99 cases out of 100 those men were selected by the Union to appear as their representatives before their employers. Would the right hon. Gentleman receive as the representatives of the men the officers, such as the Secretary and the President of the Postmen's Federation? Though those men might not be in the Service at the present moment they had been in the Service, and the question was whether the right hon. Gentleman would receive them with regard to the grievances of which the men complained?

Mr. A. MORLEY: I have said already that the deputation must consist of men in the Service.

*Mr. WEIR urged the right hon. Gentleman to consider his decision with regard to supplying letter-boxes in Ross and Cromarty. What he wanted was that the letter-boxes should be put up at convenient cross-roads, for at present the people had to place their letters on cairns to be picked up by the passing mail cars.

Mr. A. MORLEY: If the hon. Gentleman will place any scheme before me, I will consider it.

Mr. CREMER (Shoreditch, Haggerston) said, he desired to join his two hon. Friends in making an appeal to the Postmaster General on behalf of the postal *employés*. Those men, if their statements were to be credited—and, so far as he was aware, they were perfectly honourable men—had, as they asserted, many causes of complaint, not, so far as he could learn, against the right hon. Gentleman, but against the permanent officials who were his advisers. What he would respectfully suggest to the right hon. Gentleman was that he should appoint a Committee to inquire into the statements of the men, and if the men proved their grievances, have those grievances removed. There was nothing unreasonable in that request.

*Mr. A. MORLEY: I do not admit that there are serious grievances. I think I am correct in saying that the demands of the men mainly relate to increased pay and more rapid promotion. I cannot at this time of the night go into the question; but I do not think that those demands can be justified. During the last 10 years there has been a 50 per cent. increase in the staff; and during the same time salaries have increased 75 per cent.—50 per cent. on account of the increase of staff, and 25 per cent. as the result of the concessions made in 1890 and 1891, the full effects of which have not yet been felt. I think, therefore, those demands for increased wages are not well-founded. I have promised, and I have already acted on that promise, to look carefully into the grievances of the various classes. I have removed some of them, and as time goes on I hope to be able to remove some more.

Mr. CREMER said, he heard the reply of the right hon. Gentleman with regret. Even if the statements of the right hon. Gentleman were absolutely true—even if he were not misled by the permanent officials—no harm, but a great deal of good, might be done by an inquiry into the statements of the men. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider the position he had taken up towards those men. So far as he was able to judge—and he tried to judge fairly between officials and men—those complaints did not come from a small number or section of the men. But postmen in all parts of the country laboured under the belief, which the right hon. Gentleman appeared to consider was a delusion, that they suffered under grievances; and supposing the men were wrong there would be no harm in allowing them to ventilate their grievances before a Committee of the House.

MR. M. AUSTIN (Limerick, W.) asked whether the right hon. Gentleman could give him any information as to the result of the inquiries he had promised to institute with regard to rural postmen in Ireland?

*MR. A. MORLEY: My hon. Friend kept me waiting for some time for the information I asked him for. I have sent his statements to Ireland for careful inquiry; and as soon as I have got the reply I will inform my hon. Friend. I may say that if his figures as to the remuneration of some of those men are correct, I will take care that they are improved.

Vote agreed to.

The following Votes were agreed to:—

52. £558,624, to complete the sum for Post Office Packet Service.

53. £1,676,930, to complete the sum for Post Office Telegraphs.

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1894-5.

54. £1,402,100, Victualling and Clothing for the Navy.

55. £143,900, Medical Establishments and Services.

56. £10,600, Martial Law, &c.

57. £79,100, Educational Services.

58, £61,600, Scientific Services.

59. £205,800, Royal Naval Reserves.

60. £1,383,200, Naval Armaments.

61. £173,800, Miscellaneous Effective Services.

62. £231,200, Admiralty Office.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT protested against the way in which the Votes had been pushed off till the very end of the Session. It was simply because the Government chose to waste time earlier in the Session by bringing in Bills which they never intended to pass. They had that night voted between £30,000,000 and £40,000,000 without discussion simply because there was no time for discussion; and he could not allow the opportunity to pass without protesting against the manner in which the Votes had been hurried through without any examination.

SIR W. HARCOURT: The hon. Member has assented in his own person to what has been done. The proceedings to-night are taken in entire concert with the regular Leader of the Opposition, and for the hon. Member to take on himself to repudiate that action is a remarkable proceeding.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLET: I have done nothing of the sort. ["Order!"] I expressly guarded myself against attacking the granting of Supply to-night, and I have done nothing to delay the passing of these Votes. I hope the Chancellor of the Exchequer and his followers will have the fairness when I am grossly misrepresented to allow me to explain what I did say. Vote after Vote, including some 10 Navy Votes, on which we could have spoken we have allowed to pass. What I protest against is the way in which the Government have pushed off these Votes till to-night; and in that I do represent the spirit of the whole Opposition. If the Leader of the Opposition were here to-night he would, I am sure, make similar observations to those I am addressing to the Committee against the way Supply has been pushed off this year till the very close of the Session.

MR. TOMLINSON said, a protest ought to be made against the attempt of the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer to shelter himself under what he called an agreement with the Opposition. At this period of the Session the Opposition were pushed into a corner. They were entitled to a proper opportunity for the discussion of the Estimates, but it was now the end of the Session, the House was exhausted, and no attempt had been made to afford that opportunity. The responsibility altogether rested with the Government.

Vote agreed to.

The following Votes were agreed to:—

63. £757,000, Half-Pay, Reserved, and Retired Pay.

64. £990,400, Naval and Marine Pensions, Gratuities, and Compassionate Allowances.

65. £312,600, Civil Pensions and Gratuities.

66. £60,300, Additional Naval Force for Service in Australasian Waters.

Resolutions to be reported To-morrow.

SUPPLY—REPORT.

Order read for Report of Supply [18th August.]

Sir W. HARCOURT: At this late hour I do not think there would be any advantage in our going on with any of the Reports of Supply on the Paper.

Report deferred till To-morrow.

Mr. SEXTON: Do the Government intend to postpone the Report of Supply?

Sir W. HARCOURT: Yes.

Mr. SEXTON: We understood that Report of Supply was to be taken to-day?

Sir W. HARCOURT: We are going to take the Report of Supply to-morrow.

Mr. SEXTON said, the Irish Members understood it was to be taken to-night. He was at a loss to understand why the outstanding Report of Supply should be postponed, having been led to believe that to-morrow the House would take the Report of Supply granted to-day. The Education Vote and the Post Office Vote would come first to-morrow, and important discussions would then take place. He doubted if the Sitting to-morrow would be adequate for the purpose. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had fixed Friday for concluding the business of the Session; but unless he now cleared off the Reports of the business in Supply done on previous evenings, the intention in that respect would not be realised?

Mr. TOMLINSON asked if there was any Question before the House?

Mr. SEXTON said, he was discussing the question of the postponement of the Reports of Supply of August 17th and August 18th.

Mr. SPEAKER: No Report has been handed in. There is no Question before the House.

Mr. DALZIEL, rising to Order, said, that the discussion of many Votes had been put off as the result of an answer some of them had received from the Treasury Bench that Report of Supply was to be taken to-night. It was distinctly understood earlier in the evening that only the Report of the Votes agreed to that night would be taken to-morrow.

Mr. SEXTON submitted that the Order for the consideration of the Report of Supply of 1st June had been called, and the Motion made to defer it until "to-day."

***Mr. SPEAKER**: No; Report of Supply must be handed in to the Clerk before it can be considered.

Mr. SEXTON: Is this not the postponement of the Order of the Day for the consideration of the Report of Supply?

***Mr. SPEAKER**: No.

SUPPLY—REPORT.

Order read for Report of Supply [17th August.]

Mr. SEXTON: I move that that Order be taken now.

***Mr. SPEAKER**: The Report must be handed in before it can be considered, but no such Report has been submitted. The House cannot force the Government to take the Order if they do not wish to take it. A formal proceeding has to be taken before the Report can be taken. The Government are masters of the situation, and they can do as they please.

Mr. SEXTON: I beg to thank you, Sir. We shall do as we please to-night.

Report deferred till To-morrow.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Considered in the Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Motion made, and Question proposed,

"That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March 1895, the sum of £27,795,151 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."—(*The Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Mr. SEXTON: I move to report Progress.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. Sexton.*)

SIR W. HARCOURT: I am sure the hon. Member will not persist in his Motion, as the result would be to prevent the Appropriation Bill being brought in at the time fixed. It is necessary to carry this Financial Resolution in order to found the Appropriation Bill, and to wind up the business at the time decided upon.

MR. DALZIEL said, this was the only way they had of showing their feeling that the Government had been guilty of pretty sharp practice. The undertaking was that the Report should be taken to-night. The Government had not treated the hon. Members fairly in this matter, and some explanation ought to be forthcoming. It was known that some of them wanted to raise questions on Report, and it was only when heads were counted that it was decided to postpone the Report.

SIR W. HARCOURT said, he hoped he had done nothing to create the belief that he had intentionally misled the House. He had no idea of taking the Report to-night.

MR. DALZIEL said, he did not for a moment desire to accuse the right hon. Gentleman of intentionally misleading the House, but the understanding ought to be carried out.

MR. SEXTON said, there was a body of Members in the House whose country was suffering sorely, who met with very slight consideration, and whose patience had been severely drawn upon, and would not stand the strain much longer. If the Government had chosen to go through the Orders of the Day they would have met with no opposition, but they had chosen to postpone certain Orders by an arrangement with the Tory Party. They were not there to make arrangements with the Tory Party, but to defeat them. He should not recognise any arrangement, and he would persevere in the Motion he had made.

MR. A. C. MORTON said, he should be sorry to prevent the carrying out of an understanding arrived at at an earlier period of the evening—namely, that they should finish by Friday morning. He was afraid they had been jockeyed. When the hon. Gentleman opposite moved to report Progress to find out what it was proposed to do, he (Mr. Morton) had appealed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to put off certain Votes in Supply—that was to say, the Votes agreed to on Friday and Saturday. He had promised to put off one item, and had complained of his (Mr. Morton's) asking for the postponement of two or three, though, as a matter of fact, he had appealed for the postponement of "two or three." He (Mr. Morton) did not get the promise. He did not want to prevent business being concluded. They had all, he thought, shown that they desired to get the business concluded as soon as possible. He thought the Government had not acted quite fairly if they had made a private arrangement with the Tory Party.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes 31; Noes 54.—(Division List, No. 237.)

Original Question again proposed.

MR. DALZIEL said, he would move "that the Chairman do now leave the Chair." He did not think it necessary to go over the ground already gone over; but as a large number of Members had stayed to deal with the Report, a strong feeling would exist if the Report were postponed.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do now leave the Chair."—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

SIR W. HARCOURT said, he hoped the hon. Member would not oppose this stage, but would rest content with the decision which had been given, and the expression of opinion which had taken place. He was sure that there was a general desire to hasten the close of the Session, and he hoped it would be allowed to close in peace.

MR. SEXTON said, that the Representatives of Ireland could have no wish to prolong a Session in which they had got nothing. It had been quite as long for them as for anyone else, and they had got less than anyone else by it. The Report of the 17th of August was postponed in order that the Tory Party might be drummed up to-morrow to vote in defence of the House of Lords. That was a proceeding which did not meet with the approval of the rank and file of the Liberal Party, which did not accord with the feeling of the country, and which he did not think creditable to the Chiefs of the Liberal Party.

Mr. DALZIEL said, the feeling was so strong that he felt bound to persist in the Motion. Many Members who wished to raise questions on particular Votes had put them off until next Session in order that the Report of Supply on the Paper might be taken; and, at the last moment, the Report was postponed.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes 30; Noes 56.—(Division List, No. 238.)

Original Question again proposed.

Mr. SEXTON moved to reduce the sum by £20,000. In explanation of this Motion he said amongst the Orders of the Day on the Paper, in the Report of Supply there was a Vote for the salaries and expenses of the House of Lords, which Vote was the subject of a Division, and a close Division, in Committee of Supply. If the Government had carried out their engagements and taken the Orders of the Day in the order in which they stood, that Vote would again have been challenged, a Division would again have been taken, and the result might have been different. The Government, after a consultation with their political opponents, to whose opinions they showed more deference and regard than to those of their followers, determined to postpone the Orders, and consequently the particular and specific issue which they desired to raise could not be raised that night. It might, however, be raised next day, and probably would when the Report of Supply was taken. But for the moment the only proceeding open to him, as he could not proceed in Committee of Supply wherein the expenditure was authorised, was to move upon the Vote which provided the money. If the money was not forthcoming it could not be paid. A reduction of £20,000 might not apply itself to the expenses of the House of Lords, and he supposed the Treasury would have discretion as to who would have to bear the reduction. At any rate, the moving of the Motion enabled him to state that fact; and from that time forward, whatever might be the delicacy that induced Ministers to refuse to give voice to the feeling of their supporters and the feeling of the country in regard to the House of Lords, there would no longer be any delay or silence on the part of the Irish Members whenever occasion arose in which directly or remotely the powers or expenses of that Assembly could be challenged. It was the money of the people that was being voted. The Irish people paid their full share of that money, and a great deal more than their fair share of that money, and he, as one of the Irish Members, said, what many Scotch and English Members would say for their constituents, they would not concur, this year or in the future, in the passing of any money for the expenses of the House which had proved itself to be the enemy of the people of this country, and especially the enemy of Ireland.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That £27,775,151 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom." —(*Mr. Sexton.*)

Sir W. HARCOURT said, the hon. Member had reproached the Government for their conduct in entering into arrangements not in reference to any particular question, but in reference to the general business of the House. It was his duty to state that it was absolutely impossible that the business of the House could be conducted especially in regard to the progress of Supply except on an understanding in all parts of the House. Did anyone suppose that without the concurrence of the Opposition or their Leaders they would have made the progress they had done at the close of the Session, or for a long time past in the Session? All he could say was that he could not be responsible for the conduct of the business of the House unless he was allowed to do that which every person who had ever been in the position he held had always done, and always must do, unless the House was put in a condition of chaos. It was absolutely necessary, if they were to come to a close on their proceedings, that they should have general arrangements, and not arrangements in reference to particular Votes. The course the hon. Member proposed to take was, he held, unexampled, and he appealed to the House not to introduce a practice entirely without precedent.

Mr. DALZIEL said, they must all appreciate the line taken up by the right hon. Gentleman, and recognise the force of his contention that arrangements must be made with the Opposition in order to get through the business of Supply. He thought the hon. Member for Kerry would not challenge that contention. But that was not the point that was complained of at all. They knew that that night, when the Votes were being passed, the Government Whips would make overtures to the Whips of the Opposition Party to keep their men there in order that they might defeat their friends. He thought upon that point they certainly had cause to complain.

Mr. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said, he thought the Leader of the House was under a mistake in reference to the cause of complaint made by the Irish Members. He spoke only for himself, but he fancied he should express pretty clearly what it was that the Irish Members complained of was the conduct of business by the Government. The Votes in which they were interested were concluded at a comparatively early hour of the night, and they had throughout the Session sat through many a weary night for weeks and months, when their constituents had no interest in the business before the House, in order to support the Government, consulting the convenience of the Government, and not their own. That being so, they would, he thought, naturally be entitled to expect their convenience would be, to some extent, consulted. That night they had remained there three or four hours at great inconvenience, having no particular business to keep them there, because there was a Vote coming on on the Report of Supply in which they took a real interest. This was no matter of mere sentiment. It was a matter of life and death for their people, and they were prepared to sit up all night, or to sit there for weeks or months, if by doing so they could advance the cause in which they were interested. They had sat there for four or five hours that night, waiting patiently for certain Votes which they had been given to understand would be taken. Without the slightest warning to them, and in the most mysterious and, to them, utterly inexplicable way, the Report of Supply was withdrawn. Was that a fair or proper way to treat a body of Members who had, throughout the entire length of the Session, thought little of their own convenience in order to help the Government? It was unreasonable for the Government to expect the Irish Members to continue to give that loyal and persistent support which they had given without some consideration being shown to them in reply. If they had succeeded in defeating the Vote on Friday they would have had something to show the people of Ireland for this long Session. He was sorry they had very little to show now. They had some reason to believe they might have reversed the verdict that night. They did not want to inconvenience the Government, but they had obtained no rational explanation of the sudden and mysterious withdrawal of the Report of Supply, and that being so, and they being faithful and loyal supporters of the Government, the Government could not be surprised if they suspected some understanding in regard to the House of Lords veto.

Mr. A. C. MORTON thought there ought to be a reply to the speech of his hon. Friend. There would really be no difficulty in deducting £20,000 from this Vote and deciding on the Report of Supply on which head the deduction was to be made.

Sir W. HARCOURT said, he had no further reply to make. They had the power to express their resentment, as the Members for Peterborough (Mr. A. C. Morton), and Sheffield (Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett), had expressed it. He had endeavoured frankly to state to the House the reason for the course he had pursued.

Sir W. LAWSON (Cumberland, Cockermouth) said, if the Chancellor of the Exchequer would only just get up and say the Government had determined to act upon the resolution of the Leeds Conference and do as early as possible what they could to get rid of the Lords veto they would all go home, and there would be no more squabbling.

Sir W. HARCOURT said, he was asked a question on this subject earlier in the day, and he made an answer then. He had no further answer to give.

Mr. A. C. MORTON said, he should not have an opportunity to-morrow to vote against the House of Lords. He had his opportunity now, and was going to take it.

The Committee having been cleared for a Division,

Sir J. CARMICHAEL (Glasgow, St. Rollox) seated, and with his hat on: On a point of Order, I wish to ask you, Mr. Mellor, whether in the event of this Vote being carried, and in the event of the question coming upon a further Vote on the Report stage, would not this £25,000 be deducted from the English and Scotch Votes?

Mr. DALZIEL: I beg to ask you, Sir, on the point of Order, whether it would not be possible to decide that Vote on the Third Reading of the Appropriation Bill?

Mr. SEXTON: Is not this, Mr. Mellor, a contingent and hypothetic question which cannot be answered?

The CHAIRMAN: As to the question of the hon. Member (Sir J. Carmichael), I think that would be so.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes 33; Noes 53.—(Division List, No. 239.)

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE: It must be perfectly obvious to the Government that progress is impossible at this late hour of the night. I should like to further discuss this question, and therefore I move that you report Progress, and ask leave to sit again.

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

The Committee divided:—Ayes 32; Noes 54.—(Division List, No. 240.)

Original Question again proposed.

Mr. JUSTIN M'CARTHY (Longford, N.) said, he begged to move that the Chairman do now leave the Chair. It must be surely plain to the Chancellor of the Exchequer that he could make no further progress with this business that night. He wished to say to him that there was no feeling amongst the Irish Members, nor, as far as he knew, among any Members of the House, in a hostile sense to the right hon. Gentleman. But he was sure he was speaking for the Irish Members, and, indeed, for the English, Scotch, and Welsh Members, when he said they had felt there had been a want of earnestness on the part of the Government in expressing the feelings of that House and the feelings of the people generally with regard to the House of Lords. They had felt, after what had taken place, that there had not been that earnestness on the part of the Government that they expected. That night efforts seemed to them to have been made to prevent even the consideration of this Vote by the House, and to shelter the House of Lords against an expression of feeling, and that for that purpose arrangements were made—arrangements of a somewhat special character, with which they had nothing to do, of which they knew nothing, and about which they were not consulted, and these arrangements were made for the purpose of preventing the House from taking another vote on the action of the House of Lords. For these reasons he begged to move that the Chairman do now leave the Chair,

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do now leave the Chair."—(*Mr. Justin M'Carthy.*)

Sir W. HARCOURT said, of course he must recognise, he had been too long a Member of the House of Commons not to recognise, that if a minority of that House were determined that no further progress should be made, it was impossible to resist. He had never thought or expected that it was possible to bring the Session to an early conclusion except by agreement with all parts of the House. That he had sought, but he was sorry to say that at all events with one part of the House he had failed to come to an agreement with, and the early conclusion of the Session was put out of the question in consequence, no doubt, of the course which had been taken that night. Of course, the House was not full now, but he believed that if it were fuller they would have a strong expression of opinion that it was desirable there should be an early conclusion of the Session. As things stood, he did not see that it was possible that they could continue their efforts to make an early conclusion of the Session. Therefore, if his hon. Friends desired to press this Motion he did not see how it was possible to resist it. In these circumstances he could not help the situation, and they must abandon all hopes of attempting to bring the Session to an early conclusion.

Mr. DALZIEL said, he would suggest to his hon. Friends opposite whether they did not think they had now reached a point which considerably altered the situation so far as this matter was concerned, and, speaking for himself, he should strongly advise them—he only offered it as a suggestion—now that the justice of their protest had been recognised by the Government, as it had been recognised by the statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and as he thought it ought to have been recognised earlier in the evening, whether or not they were wise in doing what was practically making the officials of the House and the other Members of the House sit another day in order to complete the business of Supply. Personally, he thought they ought not to take a course that would carry over the Session until Saturday, and as he understood that would be the effect if they now adopted the Resolution of the hon. Member opposite, and as he understood that they might be able, as he hoped and was certain they would, to raise this question again on the different stages of the Appropriation Bill, he should strongly suggest to hon. Gentlemen opposite that they should consider the advisability of withdrawing the Motion that was now made in order that the House might not be compelled to sit on Saturday.

Mr. DILLON said, he concurred most heartily in the opinion stated by the Leader of their Party that their action had not been dictated in the smallest degree by any personal feeling to the Leader of the House. There was no personal feeling to that right hon. Gentleman except a feeling of personal friendliness. But he altogether differed with the hon. Member who had just spoken that the justice of their protest had been recognised. The Leader of the House had in no way, in the speech he had just made, recognised the reasonableness of their protest. He had said, on the contrary, that if the House were fuller he believed a very strong expression of feeling would have been the result, and that if the Tory Benches had been fuller that would have been the result. What was the character of their protest? He wished once more to state it clearly to the House. Their protest was exceedingly simple. The Leader of the House had stated that he had endeavoured to bring the Session to an early close by consulting all sides of the House. They were not consulted. They did not desire any elaborate consultation—all they wanted was that the Whips of the Liberal Party should in common courtesy have consulted the convenience of the men who throughout the Session had given as loyal support as any Government had ever received from any Party in that House, and as loyal as any Government ever would. He was quite convinced the Whips of the Liberal Party must have been aware of the purpose for which they were remaining there for hours, and they never gave them a hint, and they never consulted them, as to the change of the programme of the Government, and left them in absolute ignorance. And now they sprang upon them, without notice, and he ventured to say upon their own supporters below the Gangway, too, and without a single hint, a change of front in the order of business which he was sure was communicated to the Whips of the Tory Party long before. That was not fair. That was not the way to secure loyalty or to bring the business of the Session to a peaceable and rapid conclusion. And he was bound to say that he thought in this instance the Leaders of the Liberal Party had not exhibited the slightest concern for the convenience of their own most loyal supporters, and therefore he thought it was not the fact that the Leader of the House had consulted all sections of the House in his desire to bring this Session to a rapid conclusion. If he had consulted the Irish Party he ventured to say that four or five hours ago an arrangement could have been made perfectly easy whereby an understanding could have been come to. They at least had a right to have their views taken into account, and an opportunity of stating their views on the matter before this change of front was made. Their complaint was an extremely simple one. It was that they had been kept there for four or five hours with nothing to do, but to wait for certain business in which they were interested, and then it was withdrawn, not to convenience them, not to convenience the main body of the Radical Party, but to convenience some mysterious gentlemen whom they knew nothing about. He did not think that that was the way to expedite the business of the Session, and in view of the fact that they had been denied the right of taking this Vote that night, he could not agree with the hon. Member who spoke last, and he would support the Motion of his hon. Friend.

Sir W. HARCOURT said, he must say one word in answer to his hon. Friend who had just spoken. He wanted to say that he did not feel he could be justly charged with want of recognition of the assistance and support which the Government throughout the whole of this Session had received from Members from Ireland. He had felt it very strongly, and he desired to recognise it on all occasions, and he had done nothing either that night or at any other time inconsistent with the very constant and loyal support which they had received from the Irish Party.

Mr. KNOX said, that "soft words," unfortunately, "buttered no parsnips," and though they had had plenty of kind phrases they had had very little in the way of deeds. He would like to know at what time the final and unbreakable and binding engagement with the Tory Party on the conduct of Report of Supply——

Sir W. HARCOURT: There was no engagement at all.

Mr. KNOX: Then if there was no engagement, I fail to see why it was impossible to take it.

*Mr. EVERETT (Suffolk, Woodbridge) said, there were two points which he thought they were all agreed upon. Those two points were—first, that they all wanted, at the very earliest possible moment, to put an end to the veto power of the other House of Parliament; and, secondly, they all felt the warmest sympathy with the Irish Members in the cruel treatment that those measures designed especially for their benefit had received, and which had prevented them from coming to fruition. They sympathised most deeply with the Irish Members. For himself, he could say it was always with the greatest reluctance that he gave a vote in opposition to the Irish Members. He felt they had suffered much and suffered long in that House. They had great reason to complain of the treatment that had been meted out to them by the other House of Parliament; but he confessed he failed to see how it was doing any injury to the other House of Parliament to keep themselves out of their beds like this to-night. He did hope that the Irish gentlemen, having made their protest, which he thought they were perfectly justified in doing, and seeing that the prolonging of this Session would not hurt the other House, but would only hurt themselves, would kindly now let them bring these proceedings to a close and part good friends, with the mutual assurance that they would all do the very utmost they could, at the very earliest possible moment, to bring the veto of the other House of Parliament to an end.

Mr. SEXTON said, he begged to thank the hon. Member who had just spoken for his kind words, and he wished to add, in all sincerity, that they had no desire to incommode the hon. Member, nor even the Tory Party, but they could not give convenience the foremost place when questions of principle arose. He would say to his hon. Friend who had just spoken that he had never doubted the good feeling, the warm friendship, that existed for their country among the Liberal Party, and neither had he ever doubted the feelings of the electorate of the United Kingdom, that sent this Parliament here to pass Home Rule for Ireland. But he must say that all the circumstances of the direction of the Liberal Party, including the circumstances that had transpired that night, had led them rather to fear that the spirit of the direction of the Liberal Party did not always entirely agree with the strong feeling of the Liberal Party at large in that House, or the feeling of the Liberal Party in the country. Would hon. Members consider the principle and point of their position? This Parliament was elected two years ago for what purpose? For the main and primary purpose of giving Home Rule to Ireland. If it had not been for the House of Lords Ireland would now have been in the enjoyment of her legislative independence. They had no fault to find with this House. This House carried a Bill for Home Rule, and the majority of the country approved it, but the House of Lords refused it.

Mr. MACARTNEY (Antrim, S.): On a point of Order, Mr. Mellor. I desire to ask you whether the hon. Member is in Order in discussing the question of Home Rule on this Vote?

Mr. SEXTON said, he was submitting arguments why the Committee should disagree with that portion of the Vote which was devoted to the purposes of the House of Lords. When the House of Lords had done that to which he had just referred, and when the occasion arose for action to be taken upon what he maintained to be the genuine feeling of this House, for an expression of opinion in regard to the House of Lords, and that action was not taken, it did seem to him to suggest thoughts of a gloomy character and grave reflections tending, perhaps, to suggest doubts of good faith in some quarters, and tending, perhaps, not to the safe continuance of that solidarity which had existed between their country and the Liberal Party for some years past. These thoughts were suggested when he found that, when action might have been taken, when it would have been open to that House to express an opinion in regard to the House of Lords, the Liberals, or some of the Liberal Party, were themselves acting in private concert with the chiefs and officials of the Tory Party for the purpose of delaying that Vote and of calling in the presence of a body of Tories sufficient to overbear the opinion of Ireland, and the opinion of that part of the Liberal Party which, he ventured to say, most closely reflected the feelings of the country.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes 32; Noes 53.—(Division List, No. 241.)

Original Question put.

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint, &c.) said, he begged to move the reduction of the Vote by £10,000 on a ground special to Wales. The ultimate authority, before which all measures relating to Wales came, was the House of Lords, and the Representatives of Wales in the House of Lords were the Bishops of Wales. The Bishops had mutilated all the intermediate Education Acts passed in that House during the Session. The County Councils of Wales, and the other Public Bodies, almost unanimously supported those schemes, and yet the House of Lords had set them on one side. He did not desire to take up the time of the Committee, but he desired to make this formal protest on behalf of Wales by moving to reduce the Vote by £10,000.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That £27,785,151 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."—(*Mr. Herbert Lewis.*)

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE said, he should like to say a few words on this point. He rather felt that up to the present this question had been treated as one peculiar to Ireland; but it was not altogether an Irish question. It was a question in which the Radical Party of Ireland, Scotland, England, and Wales took a keen interest. They rather felt that the Government had not shown any earnest desire to deal effectively with the question. An opportunity was afforded them the other day of most effectually, in their opinion, dealing with this question of the House of Lords by stopping the supplies of the House of Lords. In fact, that was the only constitutional method of dealing with a grievance of that kind. But the Government, instead of adopting a very simple method of dealing with this grievance, summoned the support of the Tory Party to defeat their own supporters, and their own plain policy with regard to the House of Lords. As he had said, this was not merely an Irish question, but it was also a Welsh question. The House of Lords had from time to time mutilated every educational scheme with regard to Wales—in fact, that was about the only opportunity they had had of dealing with a Welsh question. But the Government had pledged themselves to deal with a much larger Welsh question next Session than they had hitherto done: that was the great question of the Welsh Church.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is not in Order in discussing that question.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said, he was coming to the point of the Welsh Intermediate Education Schemes. That was the only opportunity which the House of Lords had had of discussing any Welsh question. Those schemes had had the unanimous support of the Welsh people behind them, and the overwhelming preponderance of the Welsh Bodies, yet the House of Lords had rejected or mutilated those schemes one after another. He could not allow any opportunity of this kind to pass without recording a most emphatic protest, not merely against the action of the House of Lords, but against the action of the Government in trifling with this question.

MR. E. J. C. MORTON (Devonport) said, he should like to say one or two words of earnest appeal to the Government on the question that they were really discussing now, or rather the question they had all of them in their minds. The labours of this House, the time of this House, which the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Midlothian described as "the treasure of the nation," had been absolutely wasted by persons sitting in another place, and the essence of their action there that night was that they all wanted to see that the Government would seriously consider this situation and would seriously pledge themselves to deal with it. The present Prime Minister, in the first speech he made on a public platform after he became Prime Minister, appealed to the people of this country and to the Party which he led to give him inspiration and guidance upon this question. Those were his words. They were often taunted by their opponents of the House with being a composite Party, and so they were. They had Radicals among them, and unfortunately they had Whigs too. They had good men, and men who were called official Liberals. That challenge from the Prime Minister was taken up by that portion of the Party to which they belonged—this so-called official Liberal Party. It was not taken up by the Radicals or by the Labour people; it was taken up by the official Liberals. They held this meeting at Leeds, and after six hours' debate they came, with one special exception, to a definite conclusion as to what they demanded, and the demand then made was that the Government should, in the present Parliament, introduce a Bill to embody the demand that the House of Commons should be allowed to override the decision of the House of Lords in the same Session in which any conflict between the two Houses took place. What reply had they had to this? They had had a reply by the Prime Minister, stating that the resolution of the Leeds Conference was worthy of careful consideration, and they had had a reply by the Secretary for Scotland, in which he absolutely misunderstood the resolution of the Leeds Conference in stating that they were demanding a suspensory veto.

THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! The hon. Member is going into the merits of the question. He must confine himself to the Question before the House.

MR. E. J. C. MORTON said, he would drop that line. He wished to point out that they were in this position at the present moment—that the official Liberals of the Liberal Party distrusted the Government upon this one question, and he spoke with knowledge when he said that they were not only jeopardising the position and strength of their Party in the country by abstaining from making clear what their position was upon this question, but they were, as they had seen that night, allying themselves with their own opponents in the House to defeat their own strongest supporters upon the very question as to whether they were to vote money to enable the House of Lords to continue the obstruction which the Government said they desired to avoid. That was the issue, and they would not feel at all in a wrong position in fighting their own Leaders on this question. It was their Leaders, and not they, who had forced on this issue, and he believed the essential wisdom of the situation to be represented by the hon. Baronet the Member for Cumberland when he said they could settle the whole thing if only the Government would make an honest, and plain, and definite declaration upon this question before the House that night.

MR. DILLON said, the people of Ireland had been exceedingly patient—extraordinarily patient—on this question of the House of Lords. They had looked to this House on more than one occasion as to the treatment of their country by the House of Lords, and he confessed that there was at present in that country a bitter feeling of disappointment that, on the second time on which a great Bill vitally affecting the interests of the people of Ireland had been treated with contempt and contumely in another place, this House had given no expression to the feelings of the people of England as regarded that treatment of the people of Ireland. He thought that feeling was justified and was not unnatural in the minds of the people of Ireland; and if the Government had availed themselves of some opportunity, or had given this House some opportunity of expressing its opinion on the action of the other House with regard to the Evicted Tenants Bill, this trouble would never have arisen. He would ask the House to consider the position in which private Members were placed. It was impossible for anyone to even challenge the verdict of that House on the question of the powers—as they thought, the most mischievous powers — of the other branch of the Legislature, until this Vote came on the other night, when they seized the opportunity which was given to them—the only constitutional opportunity which was open to them—to challenge the verdict of this House on the conduct of the other House, and he ventured to say that no vote given by this House for many a long day had brought more satisfaction and rejoicing to the people of Ireland than the vote which they gave the other night. That vote was a very close one; and though it was in a small House, and though it was merely accidental, if there had been time for a larger number of the Irish Members to be present—for it must be remembered the vote came on unexpectedly—undoubtedly the vote would have been defeated. The Irish Members in this matter had a cause of grave complaint against the Government, though he repeated once more that their action that night had not been directed, or in the least degree due to any personal feeling, against the Leader of the House, or against any other Member of the Government. So far, at least, as he was himself concerned—and he thought it was the feeling of many of his colleagues—the whole cause of complaint was as regarded the action of the Government in the conduct of their business that night. And he thought their cause of complaint was a perfectly legitimate cause of complaint, and he had to say to the Leader of the House and to those responsible for the business of the House, that from the beginning of this long and controversial discussion, no kind of satisfaction whatever had been given to them. There was no single man responsible for the business of the House who had attempted to explain why Report of Supply was withdrawn, or who had given any explanation why the intention to withdraw it was not communicated in a reasonable time to the Irish Members. From the beginning of this discussion up to the present hour no one had attempted to explain why the Report of Supply was withdrawn. There was every reason for the Government getting through with it. No one on either side of the House protested against their going on. It was a matter of notoriety that Report of Supply should have been taken without any prolonged discussion, or that if any Vote in the course of that discussion had turned out to be contentious, it could have been adjourned with the consent of the House until to-morrow. Therefore, there was apparent on the surface of what took place that night no conceivable motive which could be assumed by the Government for withdrawing this Report of Supply, suddenly and mysteriously, and at a late hour, without consulting their numerous supporters who had been waiting in the House the whole night to take part in these Votes. Therefore, they were perfectly justified, according to the habits and traditions of this House, as they knew them, in making the protest they had made. It had been put to them that, having made their protest, they should withdraw. His experience of that House, which extended over a rather long and stormy number of years, had led him to the conclusion that making their protest and then withdrawing their

Motion was the most futile course. If they intended to withdraw their Motion after making their protest, they might as well save their breath and not make it at all, because the result of that course simply meant that they would never again obtain the slightest recognition from the Front Bench. He did not want to complain of or quarrel with Ministers. They all knew Ministers had a great deal on hand and a great many difficulties to get round. But when they found that some of their own followers were in attendance for the discussion of a particular Vote, when their convenience was set at nought, and when they were treated as they were treated that night, if they made their protest and then withdrew it, the result would be that they would never be again consulted in the slightest degree. That was not the practice of the Irish Party, and he trusted it never would be. They had shown through two long years that they could support a Government and hold their tongues when they were given fair play, and they would support the Government, so long as they got fair play, as loyally as any other portion of their supporters. They could either remain silent or they could talk; but he trusted that as in the past the Irish Party, when they had to fight against all Front Benches and all Parties in that House, even when they were not in large numbers, had shown that they could not be treated as a negligeable quantity, they would show that they could not be treated so now. He had never been engaged in any protest that he had not seen out to the bitter end, and he would do the same in the present case unless some satisfactory explanation was given.

Mr. DALZIEL said, the Members of the Government now upon that Bench must recognise that there was suspicion, not only upon the opposite side of the House, but upon that side of the House with regard to the intentions of the Government in respect to the House of Lords. It had been very simply told that night by the hon. Member for Cumberland, and that was that if the Chancellor of the Exchequer would simply say that next Session the Government intended to introduce a Bill which should deal with the veto of the House of Lords everyone would be perfectly satisfied, and they would go home to bed. He did not think that was a very extravagant demand to make. He had no doubt whatever that the majority of hon. and right hon. Gentlemen felt as strongly as they did about the House of Lords; but what they said was that, as a Government, they had had no declaration whatever from them as to what their policy was to be. They knew what the opinions of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Newcastle were; they knew what the opinions of the Home Secretary were. They knew they were strongly antagonistic to the House of Lords, but they had had no declaration from the Government as a Government. All they had had from the Prime Minister up to the present time, in reply to the resolution of the Leeds Conference, was a note stating that it was certainly a question requiring the greatest consideration. That was not enough. In a day or two that House would adjourn, and they would not meet again, in the ordinary course of things, until the middle of January next year, and during the whole of the Autumn there was not a single supporter of the Government who could say on authority that the Government he supported was going to take action with regard to the House of Lords. What some of them were inclined to believe was that the Government, as a Cabinet, were pledged to come to a definite decision as to their policy in regard to the House of Lords. If that was so, the sooner they knew it the better, and if they were determined to deal with the House of Lords, as personally he believed they were, he thought it was for the advantage not only of that House, but for the advantage of the Party generally that they should know once for all what that policy was to be. That was not a great demand to make upon them. The Government had told them they were going to introduce a Welsh Disestablishment Bill and other Bills next Session, and surely, taking all the circumstances of the case into account, it was not a great demand they were making. They had made declarations with regard to these other Bills, and if they would also make a similar declaration that a Bill dealing with the veto of the House of Lords would also be included in the Ministerial programme they would be satisfied. That was the demand they made. That was the desire of the action taken that night, and whether the Government made a declaration to-night or not, he hoped they would see before very long that if they were to expect unswerving support from their followers on that side of the House, they must let them know whether they intended to deal with this question of the House of Lords.

Sir W. LAWSON said, he wished to point out to the Committee that this demand for a statement of what really was going to be done with the House of Lords did not come alone from them, who might be supposed to be the extreme Radicals, but that it came from the whole Party, so to speak. He would quote one sentence which would prove that from an article in *The Speaker* of last week. He supposed *The Speaker* was a Radical Paper. He had always looked upon it as a paper which substantially expressed the opinions which he himself held. *The Speaker*, in its article, said—

> "The duty of the Government is now set plainly before them. It is they who must now direct the character of the policy with regard to the House of Lords. They have been fairly challenged, and if they fail to accept that challenge it must be at the cost of the confidence of their Party."

It could not be put plainer than that. Their own friends called upon them to make the decision, and he entreated them to make such a statement as would ensure to them the confidence of their Party—a confidence which they had had so long and so deservedly, and which if they would only take this step they would continue to have for many a long year.

Sir W. HARCOURT said, his hon. Friend had asked him, on a Motion to reduce the Vote on Ways and Means by £10,000, to make a statement of the policy of the Government with reference to the House of Lords. Now, surely, a more unreasonable demand was never made upon a Minister. As to the view the Government took on the conduct of the House of Lords in rejecting measures which had been passed by the House of Commons, which were in the opinion of the Government, and in the opinion of the majority of the Representatives of the people, necessary for the good of the nation, there had never been any concealment at all. The views of the Government upon that subject had been expressed over and over again, and the Government intended to act upon those views. And, above all, they had regretted the danger and mischief which had been caused by the House of Lords in rejecting those measures which a majority of that House and a majority of the people regarded as necessary for the welfare and peace of Ireland. On that point the Government had never withheld their opinions, and they had expressed them as clearly as they could. The hon. Member had alluded to the pledges made by the different Members of the Government. Well, some months ago he had the opportunity of making a speech upon this subject at Portsmouth, and he thought he then expressed his views of the subject pretty clearly, and by those views he abided. But if the Government were to undertake matters of this magnitude and gravity it was necessary that the Government should enjoy the confidence of the House of Commons, without which they could do nothing at all, even in matters far less grave than this. And if they did not enjoy that confidence of the majority of the House of Commons which would support them in all due consideration of the measures which were necessary for so great a constitutional change, it would be perfectly idle for them to undertake the responsibility of such a task. That was their situation, and they claimed at the hands of the House of Commons, and he believed they would receive—and they must ask the nation from whom they received their mandate, the right, and the necessary right, to have the proper time and the proper manner at their discretion to bring forward the plan by which they proposed to carry out their intentions.

*Mr. EDWARDS pressed for some more tangible assurance than the Chancellor of the Exchequer had just given as to what the Government intended as regards the veto of the House of Lords.

*Mr. EVERETT, whilst admitting that the Irish Party had ground for complaint, pointed out that it was only by continuing to act in harmony with the present Government that Liberal measures could be carried.

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes 32; Noes 53.—(Division List, No. 242.)

Original Question again proposed.

Mr. SEXTON expressed his doubts as to whether the proceedings of the Government would tend either to the advantage of the Liberal Party or to the shortening of the Session, although the Irish Party were as anxious as anyone to get away. With regard to the form of the action which the Government intended to take against the House of Lords and the time at which that action would be taken, they were just as wise as they were at the commencement of the discussion. He considered that the Irish Party had been treated by the Government with scorn. Whatever they might be prepared to suffer for their country, they were not prepared to submit to be treated with scorn, either by the Government or by anybody else. It was now two years since they had been promised Home Rule by the Liberal Party; and whilst the Home Rule Bill and every other measure which had been introduced for the benefit of Ireland had only been sent up to the House of Lords to be rejected by them, the Liberal Party were using the political momentum supplied by the Irish Question to pass Bills for England and Scotland. The Government had made an arrangement with the Tory Party, whom they and the Irish Members had been sent to Parliament to overbear, that they should come down and vote supplies for the maintenance of the House of Lords against the will of the Irish people and of their own supporters.

Sir W. LAWSON strongly supported the appeal which had been made to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to make some definite statement as to what course the Government intended to take in order to establish the predominance of the House of Commons over the House of Lords.

Sir W. HARCOURT; Perhaps I may be allowed to point out that there is no Motion before the House.

Mr. SEXTON: I intended to move to report Progress, and ask leave to sit again. I will do so now.

The CHAIRMAN: I must point out to the hon. Gentleman that as he has already moved to report Progress he is not entitled to do so again.

Dr. TANNER: Then, Sir, I move that you do report Progress and ask leave to sit again.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again."—(*Dr. Tanner.*)

Sir W. HARCOURT: If hon. Gentlemen insist on pressing this Motion I shall not feel myself justified any longer in opposing it. I may say that nothing has been further from my thoughts than to be discourteous or unconciliatory to any hon. Member, and I entirely disclaim any such intention. With regard to the request of the hon. Baronet (Sir W. Lawson), that I should make some statement as to when the Government intend to assert the predominance of the House of Commons over the House of Lords, I submit that it is unreasonable to ask me to make such a statement at this hour in the morning (3.45). I can only repeat that the policy which the Government have adopted is the policy which was laid down by the late Prime Minister (Mr. Gladstone) in the last speech which he delivered in this House. To that policy the Government intend to adhere, but they must be left to determine the manner in which and the time at which they will endeavour to carry it out. I feel that under the circumstances I should not be justified in offering any further opposition to the Motion to report Progress.

Question put, and agreed to.

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

LAND ACTS (IRELAND).

Report from Select Committee, with Minutes of Evidence and an Appendix, brought up, and read.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 310.]

NAVY AND ARMY EXPENDITURE, 1892-3.

Resolution reported, and agreed to—[See Vol. 28, page 1598.]

Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th instant, Mr. Deputy Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned at Four o'clock in the morning.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS,

Tuesday, 21st August 1894.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS BILL.—(No. 220.)

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

TRAMWAYS (IRELAND) BILL.

Read 1ª; and to be printed. (No. 223.)

CANAL TOLLS AND CHARGES PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 6) (RIVER LEE, &c.) BILL.—(No. 211.)

Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed.

BUILDING SOCIETIES (No. 2) BILL. (No. 222.)

Read 3ª (according to Order), with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

STATUTE LAW REVISION BILL [H.L.]. (No. 161.)

Commons Amendments considered (according to Order), and agreed to.

LAND ACTS (IRELAND).

Message to the House of Commons for copy of the Report, &c. of the Select Committee on.

House adjourned at a quarter before Five o'clock, to Thursday next, a quarter past Four o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

Tuesday, 21st August 1894.

QUESTIONS.

CHURCH DISESTABLISHMENT IN SCOTLAND.

Mr. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether Her Majesty's Government, considering that they have found themselves unable to implement the promise contained in Her Majesty's Gracious Speech to introduce during the present Session a measure dealing with the Established Church in Scotland, will adopt the Bill brought in by the hon. Member for the College Division of Glasgow?

The SECRETARY for SCOTLAND (Sir G. Trevelyan, Glasgow, Bridgeton): The Government approves of the proposal contained in Sir Charles Cameron's Bill for putting an end to the Establishment of the Church of Scotland, and for dealing with its endowments. They regard it as a measure which provides in a just and equitable manner for the settlement of this important question, and as one framed upon lines on which legislation might be expected to proceed.

Mr. HOZIER (Lanark, S.): May I ask whether the Government are going to adopt that Bill? That is the question.

Sir G. TREVELYAN: I must confine myself to the answer which I have given.

Mr. HOZIER: That answer does not answer the question.

Sir G. TREVELYAN: No, Sir; but——

[The answer was not finished.]

SCART HELY VOTERS' LIST.

Mr. WEBB (Waterford, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether some 20 householders on the Scart Hely property (County Waterford), in Chancery, have lately been objected to on the Voters' List because their rates were not paid; and, if so, whether the Chancery Receiver or caretaker is to blame?

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. J. Morley, Newcastle-upon-Tyne): I am informed that the Chancery Receiver is not responsible in this matter, as he paid all rates for tenants under £4 valuation on the estate in question, on the 21st November last. Payment was made to the rate collector, and the Local Government Board have been directed to inquire whether there has been any default on the part of any of the Union officials.

ALIEN IMMIGRATION.

Colonel HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade what authority there is for the assertion, in the Alien Immigration Return for July, that the 23,347 European aliens, who have arrived at 26 eastern ports of Great Britain since 1st January, have not come to this country for settlement; how many of them have been identified as having emigrated; and if he can state how many British sailors have been displaced from their employment by the influx of 6,161 foreign sailors since the 1st of January?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.): No such assertion as the question suggests is, in fact, made in the Alien Immigration Return for July. Of the 23,347 aliens there mentioned, a certain number remain in this country, and a certain number return to the Continent of Europe, or proceed to various other places abroad. It is not possible to state precisely how many of the arrivals belong to each of these classes; but the Statistical Tables and Report of Immigration and Emigration for 1893 (No. 90 of Session 1894) describe the various deductions which have to be made from the gross figures of arrivals in order to estimate the probable number of those who remain here. I know of no information going to show that British sailors are displaced by foreign sailors.

COLONEL HOWARD VINCENT asked whether the right hon. Gentleman had seen the statement in the Report, to the effect that there was a large emigration of foreigners from this country; and whether those foreigners who were alleged to emigrate consisted of those pauper emigrants whose coming into this country did so much harm to particular trades here? He would also ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he had read the statement in *The Labour Gazette*, edited by his Department, to the effect that in all ports, and especially in the Eastern ports, the supply of sailors was in excess of the demand, thereby showing that a large number of British sailors were out of employment?

MR. BRYCE said, the statement in *The Labour Gazette* did not bear the construction put upon it by his hon. Friend, but, in fact, was entirely different from it.

COLONEL HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade how many of the 21,337 aliens arriving since 1st January at the eastern ports of Great Britain, alleging that they were going to America, have been refused a passage by the United States Consuls at Liverpool, Southampton, and Queenstown, or by the Steamship Lines, on the ground of unfitness to enter that Republic, or have been subsequently denied admission by the Board of Supervision in New York; and why those thrown back on Great Britain as unworthy to take up their abode in America are not accounted for in the Alien Immigration Return for July, which cannot otherwise be accurate?

MR. BRYCE: I have no information respecting the number of foreign emigrants to the United States refused passage or rejected during the current year; but in 1893 the number of such emigrants sent back to the United Kingdom was only 99 out of 64,000 emigrants *viâ* United Kingdom, or about 1½ per 1,000, so that the accuracy of the Monthly Immigration Return can hardly be at all affected by this cause. The hon. Member will find full details on the subject in the Immigration and Emigration Report for 1893, to which I have just referred him, and he will also there find that the number of emigrants sent back to the United Kingdom from the United States was included in the year's Return of immigration into the United Kingdom from non-European countries.

COLONEL HOWARD VINCENT: But the Board of Supervision was only quite recently established in New York, and since that time several hundreds have been rejected.

MR. BRYCE: That Return if referred to will be found to include those who were sent back. The Board of Supervision has been established for some time.

MR. TOMLINSON (Preston): Does the Return include those who were not allowed to land, or only those who were landed and sent back?

MR. BRYCE: Our information is obtained from the Steamboat Companies, and, therefore, includes both classes.

THE LATE SIR ROBERT SANDEMAN.

MR. MACDONA (Southwark, Rotherhithe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether any Despatches or Reports made by the late Sir Robert Sandeman, K.C.S.I., Governor General's Agent for Baluchustan, on the subject of the North Western Frontier of India, either to the Home or Indian Government, can be made available for the information of Members?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. H. H. FOWLER, Wolverhampton, E.): There are some letters on this subject communicated by Sir Robert Sandeman to the Government of India, but they are of a confidential character, and it would not be in the public interest to publish them.

MR. MACDONA: Is there any letter of the 20th of July, 1882, and would permission be granted to see it with a view to its use in a book of memoirs?

MR. H. H. FOWLER: Any request to inspect the letters for the purpose of the compilation of a book of memoirs should be addressed to me privately. I am always willing to give assistance, wherever possible, by allowing inspection of letters for such an object; but when I am questioned in the House, I can only deal with the matter on public grounds.

DUBLIN TELEGRAPHISTS' SPECIAL ALLOWANCES.

MR. D. SULLIVAN (Westmeath, S.): I beg to ask the Postmaster General whether he is aware that eight Dublin telegraphists received 12s. per diem allowance for 15 days' duty while at Kylemore in August, 1892, in connection with the Naval Manœuvres; and that the same allowance was also given in 1891 to a Dublin telegraphist at Kingstown, also in connection with Naval Manœuvre duties; whether it is now his intention to reduce the allowance hitherto given from 12s. to 3s. per day; and, if so, for what reason; whether those Dublin telegraphists, who have recently been on Naval Manœuvre duty, are being compelled to furnish, against their will, a 3s. per diem claim in addition to the claim at the higher rate warranted by precedent and circumstances; whether it is by his instructions that these telegraphists are being forced to furnish two distinct claims, one of which they do not voluntarily make, and which, although compulsorily signed by them, is not their claim; and whether he will instruct the Dublin Local Authorities to submit for his consideration the claim for 12s. which these telegraphists make, without compelling them to furnish an account which they do not voluntarily make?

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. A. MORLEY, Nottingham, E.): I find that at Kingstown in 1891, and at Kylemore in 1892, a subsistence allowance of 12s. a day was paid; but the circumstances were entirely exceptional, both places being crowded with visitors, and the price of lodgings being very high. There is no intention to reduce allowances. What was done on the occasions in question was to raise them to meet a special necessity. As to the latter part of the hon. Member's question, no instructions have been given, or, indeed, are necessary. The telegraphists know what will be paid, and if they claim more (which I think is scarcely likely) they will, of course, be asked to amend their claims.

TRAWLING IN BANTRY BAY.

MR. GILHOOLY (Cork Co., W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the injurious effect trawling in Bantry Bay has on the fishing industry, and whether he will take any steps to abolish it?

MR. J. MORLEY: The Inspectors of Fisheries held a local inquiry in May last into the question of trawling in Bantry Bay, and, as a result of the inquiry, have made a by-law prohibiting trawling within certain limits in the Bay. The by-law has been submitted for the approval of the Lord Lieutenant in Council.

WETHERBY CHURCH SCHOOLS.

MR. TALBOT (Oxford University): I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he will re-consider the case of the Church schools of Wetherby, Yorkshire, in which considerable alterations are required, and extend the period within which such alterations must be completed, as it appears that delays for which the managers are not responsible have occurred in the approval of the necessary plans?

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (Mr. ACLAND, York, W.R., Rotherham): These schools are to be rebuilt on a new site, and the plans for the new school were approved last month.

If the new buildings are put in hand at once and completed with reasonable despatch, the grant will be continued to the old school until the new one is ready. I should, perhaps, add that the delay in submitting plans was not caused by the Department, but was apparently due to local circumstances.

WORKHOUSE INFIRMARY NURSING ASSOCIATION.

MR. TALBOT: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that a trained nurse was dismissed from the Bedford Workhouse Infirmary on 21st July, on the alleged ground that she belonged to the Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association, and that the Local Government Board wrote to the said Association in April, 1889, stating that in future they would be prepared to sanction without further inquiry the appointments of nurses who are recommended by the Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association; whether the Local Government Board Inspector, Mr. W. Augustus Peel, was present at the meeting of the Bedford Guardians on 4th August, and remarked that the said Association was "like any other Registry Office. One might find a good servant or a bad one"; and whether he will do his best to prevent the discouragement of an Association which the Board have recognised as an efficient agent in the work of nursing the sick poor?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. SHAW-LEFEVRE, Bradford, Central): I have communicated with the Guardians of the Bedford Union, and am informed by them that the nurse referred to had expressed a distaste for some of her duties, and had informed the Visiting Committee that she would be primarily the servant of the Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association, whose orders she would be bound to obey under penalties in preference to any orders of the Guardians, and that the Guardians under these circumstances deemed it undesirable to apply to the Local Government Board for sanction to her appointment. It is the case that the Board have intimated that they will not deem it necessary to make inquiries with regard to nurses recommended by the Association prior to sanctioning their appointments. I am informed by Mr. Peel that if it is suggested that he has discouraged applications to the Association, this is not the case. He informed the hon. Secretary of the Association in 1890 that he would be happy to bring the Association under the notice of Boards of Guardians in his district, and he has done this on numerous occasions, with the result that the Guardians have appointed nurses recommended by the Association. The Local Government Board fully realise the assistance which has been rendered by the Association in connection with the provision of nurses for sick poor in workhouses.

THURSO SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

DR. CLARK (Caithness): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware that the Commissioners of the Burgh of Thurso have purchased at considerable cost a site for a public slaughter-house, in order to remedy the insanitary state of things that presently exists in connection with private slaughter-houses; and will he explain why the Board of Supervision is preventing the public slaughter-house from being erected, although the Commissioners unanimously consider the site to be most suitable?

SIR G. TREVELYAN: A Petition having been lodged with the Board of Supervision in terms of Section 30 of the Public Health Act, against the resolution of the Local Authority to permit slaughtering in the building in question, the Board caused inquiry to be made on the spot by their Inspecting Officer, and, on his Report, which set forth that the site was in the near neighbourhood of inhabited houses, they held that the consent of the Local Authority ought not to have been given. On the request of the Local Authority, they subsequently re-considered the matter, but were unable to reach another conclusion. The obvious policy of the section in question is to discourage slaughtering within populated areas, and the Board, except in very special circumstances, have uniformly given effect to that policy.

CARROLL, OF SLIGO.

MR. P. A. M'HUGH (Leitrim, N.): I beg to ask the Postmaster General whether he is aware that Carroll, who has been dismissed from the office at Sligo, had been employed over 20 years in the Post Office, and that up to the beginning of the present year, when he is alleged to have given way to ebullitions of temper, he bore an excellent character; whether he is aware that since his dismissal Carroll has received testimonials of the highest kind as to his personal character, and his fitness for the office he held, from gentlemen of different creeds and politics, including clergymen, Magistrates, and Members of Parliament, all of whom have known him personally for years; whether the Postmaster of Sligo gave Carroll a high testimonial as to character subsequently to Carroll's dismissal; whether he is aware that Carroll, after over 20 years' faithful and wearing service in the Post Office Department, is now destitute; and will he have this case re-considered, with a view to having Carroll reinstated or pensioned?

MR. A. MORLEY: I have looked into this case, and I admit that there are special and peculiar features connected with it. I am considering carefully what steps may be taken to enable me to lay the facts before the Treasury with a view to their sanctioning a superannuation allowance.

THE GOVERNOR OF BORSTAL CONVICT PRISON.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE (Rochester): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the case of Lieutenant Colonel Plummer, the Governor of Borstal Convict Prison, whose emoluments were reduced by the Treasury by £50, under Section 6 of the Superannuation Act of 1887, upon his acceptance of his present appointment; and whether, in view of the fact that this gentleman has been 40 years in Her Majesty's service, and the unexpected nature of the diminution of the reward upon which he counted, this decision will be re-considered?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. ASQUITH, Fife, E.): The difference in Colonel Plummer's emoluments occasioned by his appointment to Borstal is a very disputable matter; but if he suffered any loss the first year, it will be made up by the succeeding year's increments. The Treasury, thinking that the first year he would lose £7 4s. by the appointment, made him a special allowance of £9 in respect thereof. I am afraid I cannot re-open the matter.

THE CASE OF H. BULLINARIA.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: I beg to ask the Civil Lord of the Admiralty whether his attention has been called to the case of Mr. H. Bullinaria, and whether anything can be done to meet it?

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. E. ROBERTSON, Dundee): My attention having been called to this case by the noble Lord, I directed that a Report should be called for from the Yard. It appears that Bullinaria was, during the whole of his illness, an inmate of Brompton Hospital for Consumption and a Home at Sandgate. It was, therefore, not practicable for the medical officer of Chatham Yard to visit him; but as the authorities of the hospital certified that he was suffering from phthisis, and in view of his age (54) his return to work was considered hopeless, and his case was forwarded to the Treasury for superannuation.

MILITARY BANDS AT POLITICAL MEETINGS.

MR. D. SULLIVAN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that on Wednesday, 15th August, the members of the Blandford Constitutional Club Primrose League, on their excursion to Sherborne, were met at the station by the band of the G Company, First Battalion Dorset R.V., and, headed by the band, proceeded to the place of meeting; and what steps he proposes to take to prevent such violations of the Rules and Regulations made by him regarding the use of Military Service bands at political Party meetings?

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. WOODALL, Hanley) (who replied) said: The officer commanding at Dorchester reports that if the band of G Company, First Volunteer Battalion Dorset Regiment played on the occasion as stated it was without the permission of the officer commanding the battalion. Inquiries are being made, and should the facts prove to be as stated, further steps will be taken in conformity with the Regulations on the subject. A telegram which has just been received states the band in question did not play at any national meeting, but met a train from Bradford, and accompanied the excursionists to the Digby Hotel, by permission of the officer commanding the Sherborne Company of Volunteers. They also played in uniform during the lunch. There are still some matters in connection with this which will have to be inquired into.

NORTH BEHAR CADASTRAL SURVEY.

Mr. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that in certain portions of North Behar the ryots have combined with the zemindars to express their strong objection to the cadastral survey, their entire satisfaction with existing arrangements, and their dread of the exactions of the survey officials; and whether the Government of Bengal can be requested to arrange that the survey shall not be enforced in these villages?

Mr. H. H. FOWLER: I am not aware of the particular circumstances to which the hon. Member refers; but I see no reason for directing that any villages should be withdrawn from the scope of the survey, which have been decided upon after the fullest consideration.

GENERAL POST OFFICE, DUBLIN.

Colonel NOLAN (Galway, N.): On behalf of the hon. Member for the St. Patrick's Division of Dublin, I beg to ask the Postmaster General will he appoint a postal staff at the important Post Office in College Green, Dublin, to perform the postal work there? I beg further to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he has received two Memorials signed by the sorting force at the General Post Office, Dublin, one asking for the abolition of the "triple duty arrangement," the other asking for an increase of risk allowance to registered letter duties and the establishment of risk allowances to other specified duties; if so, what answer is he prepared to give them? Thirdly, I have to ask the right hon. Gentleman, is he aware that the authorities at the General Post Office, Dublin, are in the habit of instructing the staff to attend for extra duty, and during its performance dismiss them at such hours as nullifies their claim to overtime payment; who authorised such instructions to be given to the staff; is the Dublin Department determined to establish an annual three duties per day, and require an aggregate daily duty of nine hours, which is spread over a working day of 17 hours, without overtime payment; and is he aware that over 1,000 Dublin daily papers were recently delayed for two days, amongst the number being *The Irish Times*, *Freeman's Journal*, *Daily Express*, and *General Advertiser?* And, finally, I wish to ask, is he aware that the supervising clerks performing overtime in the Post Office, Dublin, without receiving pay have recently been compelled to work 52 hours in the six days instead of 37½ hours in five days of the week, as laid down in the Raikes Scheme, and will he now order that they be paid; that this class is below its standard number, and that officers entitled to this promotion have declined to accept the same in consequence of the treatment supervising clerks as a rule are subjected to; and that the existing vacancies were created by the resignation of officers on this class; was it in accordance with his instructions that Messrs. Sheridan, Saunderson, and Forrest, attached to the Controller's immediate offices, were compelled to attend in the windows of the Hôtel Métropole on a Sunday to watch if any officers of the sorting force left the Post Office building for the purpose of obtaining refreshments at an adjacent public-house; and, in view of the fact that these officers would feel grateful if relieved of any similar duty in future, as the Department provides refreshments in the Telegraph Branch for its officials, would he kindly sanction the erection of a refreshment bar for the convenience of the sorting force?

Mr. A. MORLEY: The question of providing for the duties of the Post Office in College Green, Dublin, will be considered in connection with the scheme for the revision of the Sorting Office, Dublin General Post Office, which, as I informed the hon. Member in this House on the 31st ultimo, cannot be completed satisfactorily until after the opening of the new Parcel Sorting Office. In reply to the second question, I have to say that the Memorials in question were duly received. Upon the subject of abolishing the "triple duty arrangement," I must refer the hon. Member to my answer to his question of the 4th of December last. Upon the other questions raised inquiry is being made, and I will furnish the hon. Member with a reply directly I am in a position to do so.

COLONEL NOLAN: Will the right hon. Gentleman agree, either personally or through one of the officials in Dublin, to receive a deputation, under the same conditions as he stated apply to his receiving a deputation in England?

MR. A. MORLEY: Yes, the Rule applies equally to England and to Ireland.

CHANNEL ISLANDS MAIL SERVICE.

MR. PIERPOINT (Warrington): I beg to ask the Postmaster General whether he is aware that letters arriving in London by the Channel Islands mail at or about 6.30 p.m. are not delivered till the next day; whether arrangements can be made for delivering them on the evening of arrival; and whether letters for the Provinces from the Channel Islands are forwarded by the night or midnight mails, or are kept in London until the next day mail?

MR. A. MORLEY: Although the train in connection with the mail packets from the Channel Islands is due at Waterloo about 6.30 p.m., it rarely arrives at that hour. According to a Return for the period since the 1st of July, the average hour of arrival has been 7.44 p.m. Under these circumstances, it is impossible to include the letters for London in the last deliveries the same day, except in the East Central District. As regards letters from the Channel Islands for the Provinces, many of these letters do not circulate through London at all, but those which do so circulate cannot be included in the ordinary night mails despatched from the General Post Office at 8 p.m. They are, however, included in supplementary and midnight despatches, if they arrive at the General Post Office at least half an hour before the actual time of despatch of these mails.

MR. PIERPOINT: Assuming the possibility of a South Western train arriving at its proper time, would the letters be delivered in the evening? The *Guide* says that under no possibility could they be delivered till the next day.

MR. A. MORLEY: I should not like to answer that question without making careful inquiry.

MR. PIERPOINT: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that letters posted in Jersey on Friday are not delivered in London until Monday morning?

[No answer was given.]

HOLY TRINITY NATIONAL SCHOOLS, PRESTON.

MR. TOMLINSON (Preston): I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education, with reference to Holy Trinity National Schools, Preston, whether, in view of the fact that a large fund is now being raised for the purpose of dealing with structural defects and incomplete accommodation in the National schools of the borough, a great part of which has been already raised, and that careful consideration has been given to the best mode of supplying such deficiencies found to exist in these schools, and that the only requirement as to which difficulty is felt is the substitution of straight stairs for the existing spiral ones, which have been used for a considerable time without accident, and are believed by the managers to be safer than straight ones, a reasonable amount of time will be given for meeting this requirement, and the withholding of the grant will not be peremptorily insisted on if the stairs cannot be rebuilt by the end of October next?

MR. ACLAND: The managers of this school have submitted plans, which have been approved, for the necessary alterations to the buildings, including the substitution of safer staircases for the existing spiral ones, which the Department consider dangerous for young children. I will consider whether a short prolongation of the time allowed for the alterations is desirable.

THE BARKER CASE AT ALEPPO.

SIR R. TEMPLE (Surrey, Kingston): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Government will ask the British Ambassador at Constantinople to use his good offices with the Turkish Authorities to obtain early settlement of the pending cause between the Barker family and Jed, at Aleppo, by arbitration or other means?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir E. GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople and the Consulate at Aleppo have done their utmost to advise and assist the claimants, who, however, have unfortunately not been disposed to follow the advice given to them. This assistance is still at their disposal, if they will avail themselves of it.

ABBEY SCHOOL, BUCKFAST.

Sir R. TEMPLE: I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he has sanctioned, or will sanction, the ordinary annual grant to the Abbey School of Buckfast in Devonshire; and whether he will defer the proposal to establish a Board school at Buckfastleigh until after the coming election of the School Board for that district in February next?

Mr. ACLAND: The hon. Member is well aware that a School Board has a statutory prior right of supplying additional accommodation in its own district. This school applied for annual grants last October, but, as the School Board thought fit to exercise their statutory right themselves, the application was necessarily refused. The Board school was opened last January, and was then placed on the annual grant list. It is at present conducted in temporary premises, but plans have been recently approved for a permanent building.

GRANTS TO SMALL SCHOOLS.

Sir R. TEMPLE: I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education whether the grants to schools for small populations are sometimes withheld because the balance sheet shows that the school has a little money in hand; and, if so, whether he will allow such grants notwithstanding the existence of some moderate cash resources?

Mr. ACLAND: These grants are never withheld simply because there is a little balance in hand. The Department, in accordance with the Articles of the Code, carefully consider the circumstances of each case. The Public Accounts Committee called attention to this matter in 1890, and it was again raised in the Committee this year.

Sir E. Grey

THE EDUCATION CODE.

Sir R. TEMPLE: I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education whether there has been an assurance given in Parliament that the increased requirements of Schedule VII. in the Code would not be applied to existing schools; and, if so, whether class-rooms of long standing are occasionally condemned?

Mr. ACLAND: The requirements of Schedule VII. apply to new buildings and enlargements made since the Code of 1890. Class-rooms of long standing are occasionally, as has always been the case, condemned apart from Schedule VII. because they do not meet the ordinary requirements of the Code that all school premises must be healthy, properly constructed and arranged, lighted, warmed, and ventilated. Of course, it has happened for many years past that not only old class-rooms, but the whole of an old school is from time to time condemned.

Viscount CRANBORNE: Is the new standard applied in the case of an enlargement to the whole room or only to the addition to it?

Mr. ACLAND: To the new part.

THE BIRR SCANDAL.

Mr. WEBB: I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether it is the fact that the two girls, Annie Desmond and Kathleen O'Donovan, inmates of the quarters in Birr lately raided by a masked party, have since been dismissed their situations at the instance of persons under the control of the War Office; and, if so, seeing such action was taken before the affair was finally disposed of before the Courts, would he have any objection to state whether such dismissal implies any reflection upon the girls' conduct and character?

Mr. WOODALL: The General Officer Commanding the district being of opinion that the retention by an unmarried officer of young female servants in barracks was not desirable, ordered Surgeon-Major Fox to discharge them. This order involved no slur whatever on the character of the servants, who were permitted to remain several days in barracks after the issue of the order, to enable them to make arrangements for their departure.

THE CENSUS.

Sir F. S. POWELL (Wigan): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he has considered the expediency of instituting a Census giving the numbers of the population at the expiration of five years from the Census of 1891; and whether he is prepared to propose such a Census?

Mr. SHAW-LEFEVRE: The question of the expediency of instituting a Census giving the number of the population in 1896 will be considered.

SCHOOL ALTERATIONS.

Mr. RADCLIFFE COOKE (Hereford): I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he is aware that the alterations and additions to school buildings required by the Education Department can in numberless cases neither be carried out while the schools are open nor completed within the usual period for which such schools are closed for the holidays; and whether he will take steps to ensure that the schools in question shall not suffer any diminution of grant by reason of the inability of the children to complete the full or average number of school attendances during the year in which building operations ordered and sanctioned by the Department are carried out?

Mr. ACLAND: The Code provides that if a school has been closed for part of the year for any unavoidable cause a corresponding reduction is made from the 400 meetings required in ordinary circumstances. This provision has always been found to be, and will continue to be, quite sufficient to meet such cases as those mentioned.

FRANCHISE LAWS IN THE TRANSVAAL.

Mr. TOMLINSON: On behalf of the hon. Member for the Ecclesall Division of Sheffield, I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can state the exact period of residence at present necessary by the law of the Transvaal for a British subject to obtain the franchise there; and how many persons of British origin at present possess the franchise in the Transvaal?

The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. S. Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): The following I believe to be substantially a correct statement; but the franchise laws are numerous and somewhat complicated. There are two Volksraads, called respectively the Second and the First Volksraad; all acts of the Second Volksraad being subject to veto by the First Volksraad. The period of residence required to entitle a person not born in the Transvaal to vote for the Second Volksraad is two years, for the First Volksraad the period is 12 years. But it is requisite first to take out letters of naturalisation. The period of necessary previous residence to enable this to be done was five years, but has been, I believe, lately reduced from five to three years. The new law may make other alterations, but we have not yet received the text. As regards the second question, we have no figures which show how many British residents have obtained the franchise, but the number, as compared to those still unenfranchised, cannot be great.

Mr. TOMLINSON asked whether some further law had been lately passed enfranchising persons whose parents were born in the Transvaal, but were not naturalised?

Mr. S. BUXTON said, he had not seen the text of the law, but he believed it was substantially to the effect that persons born of parents born in the Transvaal but not yet naturalised were enfranchised, but they would have to go through the same form of naturalisation as their parents.

BRITISH RESIDENTS IN THE TRANSVAAL.

Mr. TOMLINSON: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can inform the House how many British subjects are at present residing in the Transvaal; and how many foreign residents, other than British, there are in the Transvaal not being Boer citizens?

Mr. S. BUXTON: There appears to be no very accurate information on this point in our possession. According to the last Census, taken in 1890, the European population, as distinguished from the Native population, numbered 119,128. Of these, 59,334 are stated to have been born in the South African Republic. We have no analysis of the Census showing the number of British, as distinguished from foreign, subjects in the Transvaal. The number of "Englishmen" is given as 8,973, but of course this does not include by any means all the British subjects residing there. These figures are, however, probably misleading, as since the Census of 1890 was taken, the British population has very largely increased. The matter is of some importance, and I will endeavour to obtain from South Africa more accurate information on the points raised.

CRUELTIES IN CATTLE TRAFFIC.

Mr. EVERETT (Suffolk, Woodbridge): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he has seen the accounts in the newspapers of the horrible cruelty said to be inflicted on cattle in Liverpool in the course of their unloading, and whether he will institute inquiries about it and stop it if true?

***The SECRETARY to the TREASURY** (Sir J. T. Hibbert, Oldham): In the unavoidable absence of my right hon. Friend he has asked me to give the following answer to this question:—"I have seen the reports to which my hon. Friend refers, and I took advantage of an interview which recently took place between the Chairman and other principal officers of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board and myself to call their attention to the subject. I was informed that the reports in question were full of exaggeration; that the Docks Board had taken steps to refute them; and that the local officers of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals would certainly have instituted proceedings against the offenders if the facts were as described. I need scarcely say that if I can in any way assist those officers to see that the cattle are humanely treated I will gladly do so."

WAR BETWEEN CHINA AND JAPAN.

Mr. HOZIER: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether China has agreed, or is likely to agree, to respect the Treaty Ports in Japan as neutral ports, in the same way as Japan has agreed to respect the neutrality of the Port of Shanghai?

Sir E. GREY: The question has not yet arisen. Until it does, it is impossible to make any statement with regard to it.

Mr. HOZIER: Will Her Majesty's Government make a representation to China, in the interest of British merchants trading to the East?

Sir E. GREY: It is hoped that both belligerents will interfere with the trade of neutral Powers as little as possible, but it is most desirable that in the present situation the circumstances should be dealt with as they arise, rather than that too elaborate preparation should be asked for in advance.

THE SCOTCH EDUCATION CODE.

Mr. HOZIER: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he will give an assurance that the Inspectors of Schools in Scotland will be instructed not to examine in the increased arithmetic requirements of the present Code until the issue of the next Code, by which time the teachers will have had an opportunity of preparing for the change?

Sir G. TREVELYAN: As I have already stated, instructions have been given to the Inspectors in examining in arithmetic to make allowance for the increased requirements of the present Code, and these were embodied in a Circular of 16th May last.

THE GALWAY RECORDER.

Mr. FOLEY (Galway, Connemara): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Recorder of Galway has now reached the age of 80 years, having been called to the Bar in 1839; and whether he is able to continue to discharge the duties of his office?

Mr. J. MORLEY: There is no official record of the age of the Recorder of Galway, though I understand he is 80 years old. He was appointed County Court Judge in 1859, and no Reports have been received as to his inability to discharge his duty. He has had neither assistance nor *locum tenens* in the discharge of his ordinary duties nor duties as Revising Barrister during the years 1893 or 1894.

SCHOOL EXEMPTIONS.

Mr. TAYLOR (Norfolk, S.): I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education whether, as it is not sufficient in order to claim total exemption from school for a child to have been merely examined with others by sample in the Fourth Standard, Magistrates have power to decide in a contrary manner to that prescribed by the Department; and whether a School Board has no power to carry out its bye-laws, that a child must pass in all the three subjects of the Fourth Standard before total exemption from attendance can be claimed?

Mr. ACLAND: A School Board has power, and it is its duty, to summon all parents whose children do not attend school in accordance with the bye-laws; but the Department has no authority to review the decisions of the Magistrates?

THE MERCANTILE MARINE.

Mr. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he has taken any, and if so what, action with regard to that portion of the Report of the Royal Commission on Labour which refers to seamen of the Mercantile Marine, and can be dealt with without legislation?

Mr. BRYCE: Yes, Sir; I decided some little time ago to address a Circular communication to shipowners, and to issue instructions to the officers of the Board of Trade with regard to such of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour respecting seamen as can be properly dealt with without legislation. I have to-day laid on the Table Papers on this subject. It is right to add that the Board of Trade had already to a considerable extent anticipated some of the recommendations made by the Commissioners, and I gladly recognise that, with regard to some others, much has already been effected by the care and forethought of shipowners themselves.

LABOUR CORRESPONDENCE IN NORTH WALES.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon, &c.): On behalf of the hon. Member for Flint, &c., I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether a Labour Correspondent has been appointed for North Wales?

Mr. BRYCE: No, Sir; the funds at the disposal of the Board of Trade have not hitherto sufficed to enable arrangements to be made for a special Local Correspondent in North Wales. The matter, however, is being now further considered.

THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

Mr. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state if the Congested Districts Board have given any reply to the charges made in the Dublin newspapers by Mr. Tottenham, D.L., Glenade, County Leitrim, as to their administration of the public funds under their control?

Mr. J. MORLEY: Mr. Tottenham's letter will be laid before the Congested Districts Board at its next meeting. The statements made in the letter have not yet been considered by the Board.

ST. JOHN'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, WALTHAMSTOW.

Mr. A. O'CONNOR (Donegal, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has any objection to say on what authority he on Tuesday last made the statement that a recent inquiry by the Catholic authorities has resulted in a Report to the effect that the state of St. John's Industrial School, Walthamstow, was satisfactory; whether the inquiry referred to was held *in camerâ*, without cross-examination, only one complainant, and the officials inculpated being separately questioned and the boys themselves not interrogated; whether, as a fact, the inquiry resulted in establishing the truth of the complaints, and in a Report to the effect that the punishments of "tramping" and "crucifixion" had been administered continuously for several hours at a time and on several days, Sundays included, and, further, that the treatment of boys with ophthalmia was a matter that should be attended to and remedied without delay, adding that the poor sufferers have to remain in one corner of the playground without seats; whether the persons inculpated are still left in charge of the school; and whether he will direct that the investigation he has promised shall be conducted by some independent authority not already committed to a favourable Report on the school?

Mr. ASQUITH: After considering the allegations made against the management of the St. John's Industrial School, Walthamstow, I have come to the conclusion that in the interest of all parties it is desirable that there should be an open inquiry by a competent and independent person. Under the circumstances, it will be better that I should abstain from answering in detail the other parts of my hon. Friend's question.

HIRED WRITERS AT WHITEHALL.

MR. MOLLOY (King's Co., Birr): On behalf of the hon. Member for the Camborne Division of Cornwall, I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the temporary hired writers, now employed in the Education Office, Whitehall, and the Science and Art Department, South Kensington, who, in many cases, are in receipt of 1s. per hour, are admitted to the discharge of clerical work in the Public Departments without passing any examination through the Civil Service Commission, and simply by private patronage; whether, in some cases, very young men thus introduced are actually earning more money than Civil Service writers of long official experience; and whether he will direct that those who have entered the Civil Service in a regular manner shall be permitted to earn the same money as those who have been privately introduced?

SIR J. T. HIBBERT: I am informed that 10 uncertificated persons in the Education Department and one in the Science and Art Department are doing temporary work at 1s. per hour. The rates of pay assigned for such temporary work are regulated by the character of the work, and have no reference to the age or service of the persons entrusted with it. The rate now in question is given because the work is superior to that required of ordinary Civil Service copyists; and I cannot, therefore, give directions in the sense of the last paragraph of the question.

THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that a promise was made two years ago to fix immediately the permanent amount to be paid by the Straits Settlements towards the military expenditure; what is the cause of the delay in settling the question; and whether he is aware that the Governor of the Straits Settlements protested against the present heavy contribution as being unfair and against public policy?

SIR J. T. HIBBERT: The settlement of the rate of contribution to be paid by the Straits Settlements to military expenditure during the next five years has been delayed in view of the recent variation of the purchase value of silver. The question has now been fully considered by a Committee specially appointed for the purpose, and I believe that the contribution will now be settled on a basis which will afford a material relief to the colony.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether there is any immediate prospect of an arrangement being come to between his Department, the Treasury, and the Colonial Office regarding the amount of the contribution to be paid by the Straits Settlements for military purposes; and what steps are now being taken to come to a decision on the question?

*MR. WOODALL (who replied) said: I must refer the hon. Member to the answer just given by the Financial Secretary to the Treasury.

SCOTCH SUPPLY.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, considering the very short time available, and which is becoming less each Session, for discussing the Votes of Supply in Committee of the House, he will consider the expediency of remitting the Votes in Supply specially relating to Scotland to the Scotch Grand Committee, retaining the Consideration on Report as at present?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir W. HARCOURT, Derby): In the year 1886, when a Committee sat on this subject, I was myself very anxious that some step should be taken; but the proposals of the Committee did not have a very favourable reception. The Committee referred to in the question applies only to Scotch business, and I imagine that Scotch Supply could not be dealt with alone. Our experiences with reference to the Scotch Grand Committee this Session have not been very promising.

MR. CROMBIE: May I ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he does not think that the working of the Scotch Committee was a distinct success; and whether the only difficulty in connection with it was not met in obtaining the consent of the House to send a Bill to it?

SIR W. HARCOURT: Yes, Sir, that is just what I meant. So far as I have been informed, I understand that the working of the Scotch Grand Committee in connection with the Scotch Local Government Bill was a signal success. In the previous question I was asked as to the possibility of referring a new subject like the Estimates to that Committee. I cannot help remembering the length of time it took us to get that Committee appointed, and in my answer I referred to the difficulty we had in getting the reference to that Committee.

MR. HOZIER: Is not that exactly the reverse of what the right hon. Gentleman said a few minutes ago?

SIR W. HARCOURT: No, Sir; it is exactly what I intended to say. What I intended to say was that our experience of getting the reference to that Committee had not proved very promising. I forget how many days it took.

MR. TOMLINSON: Is it the right hon. Gentleman's view that the Scotch Estimates are so exclusively the property of the Scotch Members that the rest of the House ought to have nothing to do with them?

SIR W. HARCOURT: I made no statement which would justify the hon. Member in ascribing such a view to me. I have said that the question, which is, of course, a very serious one, ought not to be dealt with in connection with Scotland alone, as distinct from other parts of the country.

IRISH LIGHT RAILWAYS.

MR. ROSS (Londonderry): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether his attention has been drawn to a statement in the Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Company's Report, that that Company, together with the Midland Great Western Railway (Ireland) Company, had made an offer to the Treasury of £130,000 for the Sligo, Leitrim, and Northern Counties Railway, and that no reply had been sent to the offer; and whether the Treasury intend to accept the offer?

SIR J. T. HIBBERT: As the hon. Member is aware, there are a large number of separate interests which have to be considered in this case, and I am sorry to say that the difficulties surrounding the question have not yet been surmounted. I am, therefore, not yet in a position to announce a decision.

MR. ROSS asked whether this sum of £130,000 would be sufficient to pay off the capital, and whether considerable feeling had not been caused by the employment of public money to compete with the City of Londonderry?

SIR J. T. HIBBERT said, that due regard would be had to all the interests concerned. The people in the locality through which this railway ran would, of course, have to be considered.

MR. SEXTON asked whether this sum of £130,000 would not still leave a balance due to the Treasury, and whether any fresh or amended offer had been made?

SIR J. T. HIBBERT said, another offer had been made, but as yet there had been no time to consider it. As a matter of fact, the sum was £120,000, not £130,000.

MR. ROSS: Can the right hon. Gentleman say when any decision is likely to be arrived at?

SIR J. T. HIBBERT: I cannot say.

TRADE WITH BRITISH COLONIES.

COLONEL HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies if the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown has been taken, as promised by Lord Jersey to the Imperial Conference at Ottawa, upon the exact interpretation of Article 15 of the Treaty with Belgium, of 23rd July, 1862, and Article 7 of the Treaty with the German Zollverein, of 30th May, 1865, providing that articles, the produce and manufacture of those Foreign States, and all others with whom a Most Favoured Nation Agreement exists, shall not be subject in British Colonies to other or higher duties than those which are or may be imposed on similar articles of British origin, and what are the terms of their opinion as regards the conclusion of preferential trading relations between the Mother Country and the Colonies founded for purposes of trade, between the Colonies of the Empire whether self-governing or Crown administered, between the United Kingdom and Her Majesty's Indian Empire, and between India and the Colonies?

Mr. S. BUXTON: The opinion of the Law Officers has been taken on the question, and, in substance, is as follows:—The general effect of these stipulations in regard to Import Duties, on the points mentioned in the question, is that (1) They do not prevent differential treatment by the United Kingdom in favour of British Colonies; (2) they do prevent differential treatment by British Colonies in favour of the United Kingdom; (3) they do not prevent differential treatment by British Colonies in favour of each other.

Colonel HOWARD VINCENT: May I ask whether that opinion has been communicated to the self-governing colonies, and whether Her Majesty's Government will consider the advisability of putting the Mother Country on the same footing with respect to Colonies as the Colonies are on with respect to each other?

Mr. S. BUXTON: Yes; the self-governing colonies are aware of the fact. I must ask for notice of the rest of the hon. Member's question.

IRISH PRISON WARDERS.

Mr. KEIR-HARDIE (West Ham, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether two warders, named Monaghan and Barret, who were discharged by the Irish Prisons Board, have been reinstated, the former through an action in the Law Courts and the latter by a Parliamentary inquiry; whether these two men had previously memorialised the Government, and were informed that their cases could not be re-opened; whether the refusal of such re-consideration was in any way influenced by a Report received from the General Prisons Board by the Government; whether others, who consider themselves to have been unjustly treated, have likewise memorialised for a sworn investigation into the circumstances resulting in their discharge, and have been refused; whether some of these men are at present prevented by the Prisons Board from obtaining employment in other public Departments; and whether, in consideration of what has transpired in the cases of Monaghan and Barrett, and to allay the discontent that prevails in the prison service in Ireland, he will cause a Select Committee to be appointed to investigate all cases in which a sworn inquiry has been demanded?

Mr. J. MORLEY: Monaghan was dismissed from the Prisons Service on the finding of one of the Divisional Magistrates of Dublin that he was drunk and incapable in the public streets. As a result, however, of an action subsequently brought by him against the Prisons Board he was acquitted by a special jury of the charge of drunkenness, and by order of the Executive Government was thereupon reinstated in the Service and his back pay and allowances made good to him. The hon. Gentleman is under a misapprehension relative to the case of Barrett. He resigned his position as prison warder by his own act in May, 1892. It is true he was recently offered re-employment in the Prisons Service, but the conditions which he asked to be attached to his re-engagement were not such as could be acceded to by the Executive. I personally went into all the facts of this man's case, and my decision was that if he were restored it could only be on the terms attaching to a fresh appointment. But this offer Barrett declined to accept. It is true that I have from time to time received Memorials from other persons who had previously been in the Prisons Service and who had been required to resign for one cause or another. All such Memorials have been carefully considered, and I have seen no sufficient ground for interfering in the decisions arrived at in such cases.

ACCIDENTS AT THE TOWER BRIDGE.

Mr. J. ROWLANDS (Finsbury, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he has received the information with regard to the accidents in the construction of the Tower Bridge; and, if so, will the Report be presented to the House before the end of the Session?

Mr. BRYCE: Yes, Sir; the Report has been presented to-day.

DISCHARGES FROM WOOLWICH GUN FACTORY.

Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether 14 men were discharged from the Gun Factory at Woolwich on Saturday last, and, if so, whether any further discharges are imminent; whether work that might be done in the Arsenal is now being let out on contract; and whether the fresh work which will be required under the new naval programme is sufficient to keep all the men now engaged in full employment until next spring?

Mr. WOODALL (who replied) said: It is unavoidable that some men should be discharged from time to time, for want of orders, of material, or from other reasons; but, as a matter of fact, three fitters only were discharged from the Gun Factory on Saturday last for want of work, and one from the Laboratory on account of ill-health. No such further discharges as those apprehended are imminent, and it is hoped it will be possible to maintain the *personnel* of the establishment up to its present strength during the current financial year.

THE EQUATORIAL PROVINCES.

Mr. TOMLINSON: On behalf of the hon. Member for the Ecclesall Division of Sheffield, I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the French Government have given any undertaking not to occupy the Equatorial Provinces of the Nile or Darfur east of longitude 25?

Sir E. GREY: I am not able to add to the statements I have already made, whilst discussions are proceeding with the French Government.

TRADESMEN ON HER MAJESTY'S SHIPS.

Mr. KEARLEY (Devonport): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that recently tradesmen have been permitted to embark on board Her Majesty's ships at Malta for the purpose of taking orders from the ship's company *en route* for England; whether any complaints have reached him from tradesmen in the Home naval ports as to the unfairness of the practice; and whether such is sanctioned by Admiralty Regulations?

The SECRETARY to the ADMIRALTY (Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth, Lancashire, Clitheroe): A statement similar to that referred to in the question of my hon. Friend has been referred to the Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean, and his answer is to the effect that he has no knowledge of any such permission for tradesmen to take passage in Her Majesty's ships having been granted; that the practice would be objectionable, and should under no circumstances be allowed. The Admiralty are entirely of the opinion of the Commander-in-Chief, and have no intention of countenancing any such practice.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to,—

Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill.

Housing of Working Classes (Borrowing Powers) Bill.

Merchant Shipping Bill.

Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Bill.

Juries (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill.

Expiring Acts Continuance Bill.

Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, with Amendments.

THE ORDER OF BUSINESS.

Mr. SEXTON (Kerry, N.): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer why the Order for the Report of Supply taken on the 17th instant is not given precedence on the Agenda Paper? Considerable interest attaches to that Order, for upon it the Vote for the expenses of the House of Lords can again be discussed. I wish to know whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer will consent to take the Report of Supply of the 17th instant first?

Sir W. HARCOURT: The Rule, no doubt, is that the Report of Votes passed in Committee of Supply shall be taken according to priority. According to that Rule, the Order "Supply [17th August] Report," ought to have precedence of the Order "Supply [18th August] Report." "Supply [20th August] Report," stands first on the Paper in accordance with the understanding that was arrived at that the Report of the Education Vote agreed to yesterday should be considered first. That understanding, I think, ought to be adhered to, but with that exception I am quite ready to accede to the hon. Member's wish, and for that purpose I beg to move—

"That the Order of the Day, Supply [18th August] Report, be deferred until after the Order of the Day, Supply [17th August] Report."

Motion made, and Question proposed,

"That the Order of the Day, Supply [18th August] Report, be deferred until after the Order of the Day, Supply [17th August] Report."—(*The Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

MR. MOWBRAY (Lancashire, Prestwich): Then why should not the Report of the 1st June have precedence?

SIR W. HARCOURT: The same question arises on the Diplomatic Vote in Supply of the 20th August.

MR. GRIFFITH-BOSCAWEN (Kent, Tunbridge): Then why put it down at all?

SIR W. HARCOURT reminded the hon. Member that when Supply of 1st June was taken it was intimated that a further Vote in connection with Uganda would subsequently be asked for, and that Vote was granted on the preceding night. The two Votes were practically one and the same, and the Debate on them could, therefore, be merged.

CENSUS OF WELSH-SPEAKING POPULATION.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon, &c.) asked the Secretary to the Local Government whether he would cause inquiry to be made as to the grounds on which the Registrar General cast doubt on the accuracy of the Census Returns respecting the Welsh-speaking population in Wales?

MR. SHAW-LEFEVRE said, that the Registrar General was at the head of an important Government Department, and, in the matter of the Census, acted under statutory authority. Under these circumstances, he could not officially make the inquiry suggested by his hon. Friend, but he would make personal inquiries into the matter, and would communicate the result of those inquiries to the hon. Member.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

SUPPLY—REPORT.

Resolutions [20th August] reported.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1894-5.

Resolutions read a second time.

First Twenty-one Resolutions postponed.

Twenty-second Resolution,

"That a sum, not exceeding £3,155,589, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for Public Education in England and Wales, including Expenses of the Education Office in London,"

considered.

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (Mr. ACLAND, York, W.R., Rotherham): The lateness of the period of the Session we have now arrived at, the amount of work we still have to go through, and, I may add, the lateness of the hour at which many of us went to bed last night, would all of them have disinclined me from making any preliminary statement at all; but it is the universal practice, which I believe has never been broken through, that some short statement should be made on the Education Vote, and if I make only a skeleton of a statement to-day, I daresay the House will pardon the brevity of that which I have to say. I am asking for £6,500,000, which is a large increase on the sum asked for last year. £4,000,000 of the sum goes to the day schools and evening schools, and £2,000,000 goes to those schools in respect of the fee grant. The remaining £500,000 is devoted to the expenses of administration and of the Training Colleges. The most notable fact connected with the increase of the Estimates is that part of it is due to the increase in average attendance during the year completed on the 31st of August last. I have no doubt that a large part of that increase is due to the Free Education Act of the late Government. I can best show what that increase is by saying that in 1890 the increase in the average attendance was about 35,000 children; in 1891, 32,000; and in 1892, 126,000 children. In preparing the Estimates for last year we thought that if we made provision for 126,000 children we should be within the mark. But from 1892 to 1893 the attendance bounded up to 229,000 children, and that increase accounts largely for the Supplementary Estimate which was introduced at an earlier part of this year, as well as for the large increase in the present Estimate. This in itself is very satisfactory, especially when we bear in mind that the percentage of attendance per 100 children is largely increasing, as well as the average attendance. We find that while in 1891 out of 100 children on the Register there were 77·7 in average attendance, last year there were 79·98. This rise of 2 per cent. is very important when so large a number of children are concerned. Then there is an increase in the attendance at evening schools, and we estimate this year that the average attendance will be practically by 100 per cent. We believe that the desire to carry on the education of the day schools in the evening continuation schools and the publication of the Evening Continuation School Code, which does everything it can to encourage attendance at evening schools, will justify this estimate of an increase from 81,000 children to 165,000. I ought to say a word about the working of the Free Education Act. We have now 4,250,000 children on the Register as free scholars and 890,000 children still pay fees, of whom, roughly speaking, about 500,000 do not pay more than 1d. a week. A certain number of Petitions for free education have been received by the Department during the year, and a considerable number of them have been granted. I think that there are perhaps some places where the parents hardly yet realise what their rights under the Act really are, but I hope that by degrees they will fully understand what the Act of 1891 really means. I do not, of course, for a moment deny that there are a certain number of parents who prefer to pay fees, and there are schools where fees are paid because the parents desire it. But, as a matter of fact, the vast proportion of children have now free education. As to the curriculum of the schools, there is an excellent choice to be found in the Code for managers and teachers if they desire to extend their range or to alter their subjects. After all, the question of the particular subjects to be taken up is one to be judged by those who manage the schools. The real point is whether the teaching is teaching which is full of life, or merely a kind of dry-bones instruction which has no life. There can be no doubt that in some of our schools there is a great deal of cramming —a great deal of burdening of that excellent beast of burden, the memory. What I hope and believe is taking place is that the new generation of teachers which is growing up, helped, I trust, with the advice and assistance of the better Inspectors, will gradually introduce a more reasonable and effective method of teaching and training of our children. The more our schools can be without any interference from the Department as some of them really are now, the more effective and admirable they will be in all their methods, and the less need there will be for annual visits from Inspectors. We are doing all we can to lessen the necessity of these formal annual visits from Inspectors. In the evening schools visits of surprise are made from time to time to see how the schools generally are going on as a whole. In the infant schools this year we have tried to develop the same system. We hope the time may come when the fear of the annual visit by the teacher or the manager may become much less, and when the Department will be able to supersede it more than now by reasonable visits of inspection from time to time to consider the state of the schools as a whole—as it appears in its ordinary workaday fashion. Annual visits, however, are still considered necessary in the case of a certain number of schools. There is another matter I must allude to here, and that is that no curriculum in the upper part of our schools is of much use unless we can keep the children at school longer than is done at the present time. Above everything, those who are interested in national education ought to aim at persuading parents, and those who are responsible for the bye-laws, to extend the years of school life. Consider the enormous advantage which is possessed, quite apart from natural intelligence, by the children of our own class —the class of people who mostly enter this House—through being kept at school and at the University for at least 14 years. On the other hand, consider the disadvantage suffered by the children of working men and small tradesmen, who very often receive little more than seven years' education. Quite apart from natural intelligence, the real mastery of those subjects which are taught in our schools or Universities must be obtained in an infinitely higher degree by the child who has the advantage of so large a continuance of educational influences. I agree that we want the parents on our side in this matter, and I am glad to say that I believe the more thoughtful parents are more and more becoming aware that by keeping their children at school up to 14 or 15 or 16 years of age, and not sending them into the world to labour to compete very often with people who are older, they are bestowing upon them the best gift they can grant, thus providing them with an admirable outfit for life. While I say that we want the parents more on our side, I do not disguise the fact that great responsibility in the matter lies on my own Department, and on all the Local Authorities who are concerned, not to delay the provision of school accommodation where it is only beginning to be required, not to overburden the teachers, who have already a heavy task to perform, and to do everything they can to lessen the disadvantages at which the children are placed in crowded parts of town and country. I regret that there is often delay—I hope not on the part of my Department—by which children are kept for many months, and sometimes longer, out of school. We must all feel glad that there is a steady movement going on in the country for intermediate education, which will give advantages at least to the picked children whose parents can afford it to carry on their education further than the elementary schools. There is no example more remarkable in this respect than the working of the Welsh Intermediate Education Act of the late Government, under which 70 or 80 cheap, popular, secondary schools are provided and are taken advantage of by the better-off working men, small tradesmen, and small farmers, to the great advantage of the country. I certainly think that the Science and Art Department—which is doing excellent work in various parts of the country—is inelastic and wooden, and would do well to follow the example in the Code of 1890, introduced by my right hon. Friend the Member for the Dartford Division of Kent, and to do what they can to lessen mere examination on paper and to substitute a form of inspection for it. The first step towards that is to have adequate inspection, and that is what I am trying to get. I am trying to substitute by degrees for ex-military men (who, no doubt, have done good service in the position) a younger and, I hope, a really intelligent class of Inspectors, who will be able to carry on the work of the Science and Art Department more on the lines of the best work of Whitehall, to the great improvement of all the work done from South Kensington. I wish to say one word with reference to teachers' pensions. I hope the Report of the Departmental Committee on this subject will be before the Treasury in the course of two or three months. We all know, and we knew at the time we discussed it in Committee upstairs, that when the State came to grapple with the matter it would be found to be a very expensive affair; but I understand that the Report of the Departmental Committee will show that, if anything, the plan will be even more expensive than has been anticipated. I have no hesitation in saying that if some of our smaller schools in the country are in a state which is hardly adequate for the present day it is partly due to the fact that the teacher has got too old for his work, and that it would be to the advantage of the teacher, the school, and the children alike, that he should receive a well-deserved pension, and make room for a younger man. I have also had under consideration the importance of better training for pupil teachers, and of affording the highest possible education in the Training Colleges, especially in science teaching. I have had the opportunity of meeting from time to time some of the heads of the chief Training Colleges in regard to the development and improvement of the curriculum in these Colleges, especially in science. Popular science ought, I think, to be one of the subjects taught in our elementary schools, and I would train the teachers how to deal with that in an efficient way. There is one more point with regard to the teachers I should like to mention. It is that I think the work of the teachers in schools should be separated from their work outside, and I hope to bring in a short Bill dealing with the subject. There are, no doubt, difficulties in connection with the teachers because of the insecurity many of them feel in being open to unreasonable and unjust dismissal. These cases occur quite as much at the hands of the small School Boards as at the hands of the managers of voluntary schools. I think that all good teachers should feel really safe from arbitrary dismissal, which does occur—though seldom, I admit. I wish to say a few words with regard to the improvement of the school buildings in the country, what I believe is generally considered, by those who on platforms and elsewhere make speeches about me, to be the chief item the direction in which I show a prejudice against Church schools. I will say this—that since the two or three Debates which took place earlier in the year I think a very much more satisfactory *modus vivendi* has been arrived at between the Department and a good many of those who were dissatisfied before, including a good many Members of this House who usually sit on the opposite side. We are all agreed that the condition of school buildings should be, both in town and country, as thoroughly healthy as possible. For the sake of the children, for the sake of the parents, and even more for the sake of the teachers, it is highly undesirable that the work of education should be carried out in premises which are insanitary and unhealthy. This is no new policy. I hope and believe that a more friendly spirit has grown up in the working out of this policy as between managers and School Boards on the one hand, and the Inspectors and officials of the Department on the other. I wish frankly to acknowledge this—that those who are most able to judge whether the policy of the last two years has been the persecution of the Church schools or not have spoken frankly and truly, as I believe, on this question. The National Society and its officials certainly know more about this matter than any single individual can possibly do; and at their annual meeting the Archbishop of Canterbury, acting as their chairman, said that, while the Department was ruling over the voluntary schools with rigour, that fact ought to make everybody extremely careful, both in public and in private, not to bring against the Department charges which could not be justified. I wish a noble Lord in another place, and other persons who write me letters which no Member would think reasonable, would take the advice of the Archbishop. The Archbishop said the National Society had a committee which was on the watch most carefully, and no doubt it has had admirable opportunities to look microscopically into these matters and to investigate any complaint made against the Department. It was the opinion of that Committee that no undue pressure had been put upon Church schools. I confess I rely upon that—unless we become more severe—against a great many statements by individuals which have been or may be made. There are, of course, other charges, the charges of hastiness, and of inopportuneness. But I have said before, and say again, that you cannot have a great Department with a vast number of Inspectors and a considerable number of officials without making some mistakes. It is inevitable that there will be found in a great staff like ours men who have not the same tact and judgment as the best of those who do the administrative work. It is my task, and the task of the permanant Secretary, to do everything in our power not to justify mistakes, but to try to remedy them. From what I know of our Department there are far fewer letters and communications written in the old formal style than there were some years ago. The right kind of public official is the man who knows when a formal acknowledgment or answer is necessary, and, on the other hand, who knows when to give not only a civil, courteous reply, but a reply which shows that he understands the position of those who write to him. It is impossible that the head of a Department—I mean the permanent Secretary, still less myself—can see every communication; but I can assure hon. Gentlemen that I do all in my power to get Inspectors and officials to understand—many of them fully understand without any directions—that correspondence on all these delicate and difficult matters ought to be carried on with a great deal of courtesy and sympathy. Besides trying to encourage this tone and spirit, I have taken another step which I think is a very useful one. One of the great difficulties which arise in these matters of buildings is between the managers who understand the circumstances on the spot and our architect and his Department in London. It is almost impossible to change the present system, because our Inspectors are not architects; and if they were to attempt to give orders, to approve plans, and to suggest modifications up to the point of their approval being final, we should get a great many more letters than now. It is absolutely essential that there should be an effective and able architect who really knows, as certainly our architect does, the whole of his profession. But such a man, sitting in

Whitehall, may fail to understand the details of the local situation, so I have appointed a travelling architect, who, I am sure, from my own experience of the past few months, has been of the greatest possible service to managers and School Boards when they get into difficulty. I have from time to time sent this travelling architect to see those who were in difficulties about their buildings, and I know those who have received him will admit that he has been able to give advice about the re-arrangement of old buildings or about the plans and details of new buildings which has been of the highest possible service. I do not mean to say that this gentleman alone can go everywhere, but I wish to say to hon. Members that on any occasion of special difficulty I am most anxious to send this gentleman to clear up matters that may arise between the managers and ourselves. I have been asked a few questions with regard to grants under Articles 104 and 105 of the Code. I can only say about that, that we consider these grants to small schools of the highest value, and they are, as we intend them to be used, almost essential to the carrying on of our small schools when in difficult circumstances. Nobody who has anything to do with the small country schools can deny that many of them are in great difficulties as compared with the large town schools. I have just had a Return made which will show a great many facts bearing on voluntary schools. One point it will show is that there is in many cases a most liberal subscription to voluntary schools. It is very difficult to carry on a country voluntary school with subscriptions of less than 10s. or 15s. Nearly 5,000 schools get subscriptions of more than 10s. a head; some of them getting over 15s., and some of them over 20s. a head. On the other hand, there are about 5,000 schools getting less than 5s. a head, and about 1,000 getting nothing at all. Of course, I admit that in some of these cases the schools have endowments, which render subscriptions not so necessary. About 4,000 schools receive between 5s. and 10s. a head. Those who have experience of country schools admit that unless you get about 10s. a head you are likely to get into difficulties; and it is not easy to draw a distinction between town and country schools. Some town schools can run themselves without subscriptions, but country schools can do nothing of the sort. Therefore these grants are of great importance. Whenever the grants are really needed for the purposes for which they are intended—for assisting the really effective work of the schools—they are given. They are not meant merely to save other people's pockets, nor for building grants, nor are they intended to be given in any case where the population of either 300 or 500 is exceeded; and they apply alike to Board and voluntary schools. I would only say that these questions, however few in number, receive the most careful attention individually, and we never take the grants away except when we believe we are bound to do so. If there are cases of hardship in which hon. Members think that these grants have been unjustly withheld, such cases will always be most carefully revised. There is a special class of cases in the schools of this country which deserve our best attention—I refer to the cases of children who are suffering from physical incapacity, and whose brains are not like those of other children, but who may, if they are properly treated, be restored to a normal capacity. It is most important that all managers of Board schools should treat such children with the utmost sympathy and care. We have made arrangements for the special treatment of such children, under which they are to be withdrawn from the ordinary elementary schools for two or three years, and so treated according to their peculiar powers that, at the end of that time, where possible, they may be restored to the elementary schools. Nothing is more remarkable than the success which attends such a course of treatment of such children whose mental powers are thereby brought back to them, and they thus are able to return to the elementary schools and receive the ordinary education. With regard to the blind and deaf children, there is no doubt that the amount of £6,000 which was asked for in the Estimates of last year for their treatment will have to be increased. The Act which was passed last year is working admirably, and I believe that in a short time there will be very few of these cases unprovided for. With reference to the children whose homes give them no opportunity and who are insufficiently provided with food, I desire to express my thorough belief in the voluntary efforts that are being made to supply this deficiency. It is useless to expect the children to take advantage of the instruction given to them at the elementary schools unless they have food inside their bodies capable of sustaining them during the hours of teaching. Of course, it is possible that such a system may be abused; but by taking care I think that a stop may be put to fraudulent cases. There are a very large number of our teachers who are so conscious of the enormous importance of this subject that they would be at infinite trouble to supervise what is done, and I have no doubt they would be admirable judges as to deserving cases. But there is another form of helping these children. I do not think that wealthy men and women can devote their money to a more worthy purpose than to subscribe to a fund for taking them out into the country for a week, or two or three weeks, for they would then come back with new ideas and healthier bodies. My predecessor in Office stated that secondary education would be gradually and more effectually recognised in this country, and I trust sincerely that after the Royal Commission has reported, we may be able to do more, not only for the children in the elementary schools, but for those of what is called the lower middle-class, whose parents—farmers and small tradesmen—are not inclined to send them to the elementary schools, and for whom very little adequate provision is available. But for this purpose we need more real and effective harmony amongst the various institutions connected with education. Such institutions ought to play into each other's hands for the advantage and the benefit of the young people whose education is intrusted to them, I am, however, afraid that there are but few places in which that harmony prevails to the extent that it ought to do. In Birmingham, however, every effort is made by all the Educational Authorities to act in harmony with each other. There is a great foundation for boys and girls, a School of Art, a rising School of Science, and a great and effective School Board, all of them acting in harmony, and the result is that they have been able to carry out a most effective system of education from the top to the bottom. I quite agree with those who believe that our elementary system of education is far from being what it ought to be, because up to the present a due sense of the importance of education has not been engrained among the parents throughout the country. This condition of things will, however, I trust, soon be remedied, because the younger parents, who have had the advantage of a good elementary education themselves, are determined to give their children at least as good, if not a better, education than they themselves received. We cannot, however, expect to do everything at once, and we may be satisfied with the gradual progress that we have been making during the last 25 years. At the present day education counts for a great deal, as the educated undoubtedly have a decided advantage in life over the uneducated portion of the people. I trust that a broader view of national education will teach us not to press our own individual views, whether in the Education Department or in the School Board, or as managers or as teachers, too far, and that we shall not allow private or sectional interests to overcome broad national interests, but that, on the contrary, we shall do our utmost to develop the faculties and characters of the hundreds of thousands of children who are under our charge, so as to give them, to the best of our ability, fresh opportunities in life by means of the wisest methods of training that can be devised.

Viscount CRANBORNE (Rochester) said, the right hon. Gentleman had been good enough to apologise to the House in the most courteous way for the scanty statement he was about to make. He did not know that the right hon. Gentleman's statement could be described as scanty, but, no doubt, under happier circumstances, the right hon. Gentleman's speech might have been fuller than it had been that night. Looking at the state of the House, however, the right hon. Gentleman had every justification for not making a lengthened statement. It was a great scandal that the House should not have had an adequate opportunity afforded to them for the discussion of this most important subject until the end of the Session. When the Education Code was before the House earlier in the Session the discussion was interrupted by the right hon. Gentleman's own friends, whose interruptions made it perfectly impossible to adequately discuss the enormous interests of education.

MR. ACLAND said, that the House had an opportunity of discussing the subject on the Vote on Account.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE said, he did not think much time had been occupied on the Vote on Account, but he could assure the right hon. Gentleman that next Session the Opposition would take care not to allow any Vote on this subject to be taken without adequate discussion. He was very much obliged to the right hon. Gentleman for that suggestion. The statement of the right hon. Gentleman as to the evening schools appeared to be satisfactory. These schools were worthy the support of the House; they were voluntary in their character, and were attended by children who were really of an age which enabled them adequately to learn and retain all they had learned in a way in which those children who were still at the compulsory age could hardly be expected to do. With reference to intermediate education, he should like to give one warning to the Government. They had appointed a Commission, and had held up to their admiration the working of the Welsh intermediate system. Whatever the intentions of those who passed the Welsh Intermediate Education Act were, he and his friends were not at all satisfied with its working. If the right hon. Gentleman intended to bring in a system of secondary education, unless he dealt adequately and properly from their point of view with the great religious difficulty, he would never receive facilities from their side of the House for passing any measure into law. The religious question arose in the matter of secondary education in a more important fashion than it did with regard to primary education, and unless the Bill dealing with the subject provided proper safeguards with reference to religion they should fight every clause and every line of it. The right hon. Gentleman, he thought, at one time was under the impression that he (Viscount Cranborne) was bent on attacking the permanent officials of the Department. He wished to say that he never desired to attack the permanent officials. The only way of criticising a Department was through the person of the Minister who represented the Department in this House, and that mode was the one which he himself had followed. So far from attacking the permanent officials he had a great regard for them. He had always been treated by them with the greatest courtesy, and had found them a very intelligent and industrious body of public servants. The right hon. Gentleman said there had been a *modus vivendi* established between those who attacked the policy of the Department and the Department itself. He thought that might be due to the fact which the right hon. Gentleman attributed it to—that Members of Parliament had begun to take a more reasonable view than they did. But he also thought it was due to the fact that there had been a very much more careful supervision of the conduct of the Department by questions, and by the publication of Returns than existed before. That, of course, had a proper effect on the Minister and the Department, and the public had probably reaped the advantage from that extra supervision which it had been in the power of some of them to exercise over some of the proceedings of the Department. The real fact was that even if the Department were perfect, and the right hon. Gentleman were also perfect—which he knew he did not claim to be—the work of the Department was so colossal as to make perfection almost impossible, and the right hon. Gentleman had shown a very acute sense of that in his speech. This careful and detailed control of 20,000 schools by a Central Office in Whitehall was sure to lead to hardship in a number of cases. The Department had to deal with an enormous mass of detail, and both the right hon. Gentleman himself and the Department were very often misinformed. As a proof of this, he would cite the case of the Cleckheaton School, which he had previously called attention to by means of questions. That was the case of the closing next month of one of the voluntary schools in the district which, it was alleged by the Department, would produce a want of accommodation. The locality was very strongly opposed to the establishment of a School Board, and this feeling was not confined to Conservatives and Churchmen, but was the general feeling of the locality entertained by all parties and all denominations. Accordingly, they made representations to the Department that the accommodation was provided for in the existing voluntary schools. The right hon. Gentleman, however, would not accept this view, and he put forward as a special reason why the existing voluntary schools would not supply the requisite accommodation the fact that a certain number of children were half-timers, and that it was necessary to have a school near the mill. But the half-timers did not now, and never did, go from the mill to the school; therefore, the relative position of the mill and the school had nothing whatever to do with the circumstances of the case. When that was pointed out a letter was written, on the responsibility of the right hon. Gentleman, stating that the Department were aware of this all the time. If they were they did not say so, and if they did know it, then it knocked the bottom out of their argument, because why was it important that a school should be near a mill if the half-timers did not go from the mill to the school? The children always went home before they went to the school, in order to make themselves more presentable. The fact of the position of the particular school in relation to the mill had nothing to do with it. What was important was the position of the school in relation to the home, and in no case was the home more than three-quarters of a mile from the school, and, as a matter of fact, all the children lived a shorter distance than three-quarters of a mile from the school. The right hon. Gentleman said he made very careful inquiries. All he could say was, that the inquiry could not have been careful enough when it did not reveal this very essential fact. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would explain why it was important that the Cleckheaton School should be near the mill, when, as a matter of fact, the children never went from the mill to the school. The only argument put forward in a second letter from the Department was that the children occupied the whole of the time that ought to be devoted to dinner in going from school to their homes and from their homes to the mill, or the other way, and that that was bad for their health. He ventured to say in the hour which was by law allowed for dinner in the middle of the working day in the mills, a child could easily cover the distance of half-a-mile to his home in 10 minutes, so that the contention of the Department was an entire delusion, and he suspected was entirely founded on the misinformation which the Department originally got as to the habits of the children who were half-timers in this district. He was, therefore, astonished that the right hon. Gentleman had refused the request for a public inquiry. He quite admitted that the managers of the existing voluntary schools had no *locus standi*, as they did not take their opportunity when they might have done so; but a system of private inquiry did not reveal any of the essential facts, and the right hon. Gentleman would have done much better if he had granted a public inquiry, when all the facts could have been disclosed, and the right hon. Gentleman would not then have been in the difficulty in which he was placed at present. He did not desire to dwell on individual cases. It should be remembered that in dealing with these cases they were dealing with people who had with the greatest possible difficulty in many cases collected money for the establishment of the school, and who had given enormous personal efforts and exertions to its maintenance and conduct, and they ought, therefore, to be treated with the most extreme carefulness by a great Public Department, and every kind of injustice, if possible, avoided. The Local Government Board had certain powers in dealing with Local Authorities, but these latter knew exactly the length of the arm of the Board, and when it attempted to interfere unduly, the Board was treated with dignified but complete contempt. The Education Department, however, had to deal with country clergymen who had not, as a rule, legal advisers by their side, and an order from the Department was calculated to cause alarm. As an illustration of what he meant, there was a village in Dorset which bore a name not unlike his own. The Department suggested to the manager of the school that he should put up a gymnastic apparatus, as if the few children in the village school did not get sufficient exercise for their little bodies in the trees along the roadside. He hoped the managers of these schools would understand that what looked like iron in the machinery of the Department was merely painted wood. He hoped, further, that the managers of country schools would bear that in view. He was glad to gather from the remarks of the right hon. Gentleman that he would be careful in dealing with these country schools, and he thanked him for it. If the power of the right hon. Gentleman and his Department was not carefully looked after he would become as great a despot as the Sultan of Turkey. The Department was often wrong in matters of law, and that was another reason why they should be extremely careful. They were wrong in regard to the payment of a certain grant, for they contended that it ought to be calculated on the average attendance of the whole year, whereas it had to be calculated on the average attendance of the last quarter. Again, take the question of whether there ought to be a charge for books. There again the Department, he believed, was entirely wrong. They declared that the compulsory charge for books was illegal, but the Department had no right to prevent charges for books. They were, however, extremely vague about the matter, as had been shown by correspondence which had taken place on the subject. Not only had the Department despotic power in administering the law, but they were extremely vague as to the meaning of the provisions of the law. The right hon. Gentleman was most reluctant to take the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown; but considering how inaccurate the Department were in matters of law, they ought to be willing to submit doubtful cases to the Law Officers of the Crown who were expected to advise on questions of law. His contention was this: that the compulsory charge for books was legal before the passing of the Act of 1891, and remained legal, and that the Department had no right to prevent charges for books. The right hon. Gentleman would find that he had no right whatever to prohibit the purchase of books.

MR. ACLAND: Years ago it was absolutely forbidden to exclude a child from a school because the parents refused to pay for books.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE said, that his recollection differed from that of the right hon. Gentleman, who had never produced any public document in support of his statement. Up to the passing of the Act of 1891, charges were made for books in an enormous number of schools. Under that Act the Department held that such charges were illegal; but according to the advice he had received they were legal, and always had been legal.

MR. ACLAND was understood to say that the charges were legal before the Act of 1891.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE said, the question was whether compulsory charges were legal now, and he was advised that they were. The right hon. Gentleman held that upon the effectiveness of elementary education depended the force and vigour of the nation; but he and his friends held that there was something more important than elementary education, and that was the religious training of the children. It was because the voluntary schools held the real key of knowledge, and conferred upon the nation an untold benefit, that they ought to be treated by the Education Minister with the greatest consideration. He concluded by moving the reduction of the salary of the Vice President by the sum of £500.

Amendment proposed, to leave out "£3,155,589," and insert "£3,155,089."—(*Viscount Cranborne.*)

Question proposed, "That '£3,155,589' stand part of the Resolution."

MR. EVERETT (Suffolk, Woodbridge) said, he was glad to hear what the Vice President said about the grant to a school being made to depend less and less upon an annual examination, which had always appeared to him to be a great blot upon our present system. The result of an examination might depend largely on the question whether the Inspector making it was in a good humour or a bad humour at the time. With reference to improvements and alterations in buildings, he would ask the Vice President to be rather tender in dealing with schools in agricultural districts, where the children spent a good deal of time in the open air, and where sumptuous school buildings would be in great contrast with their humble homes. As to pensions for teachers, it would be a pleasant thing, of course, if all teachers should have pensions, but there were many people who would like to have pensions for themselves, and, until a system of old-age pensions was established, many persons were unwilling to tax themselves for pensions for teachers. He thanked the right hon, Gentleman for his statement with regard to the independence of teachers. In many of the villages the position of the teachers was not independent, and any measures which added to the independence of teachers would be welcomed, not by themselves only, but also by the public generally. There was a strong feeling among private schoolmasters that their interests had been insufficiently guarded in the constitution of the Secondary Education Commission; and he hoped that in giving effect to any of their recommendations of that Commission nothing would be done that would involve injustice to private schoolmasters.

MR. GRIFFITH - BOSCAWEN (Kent, Tunbridge) said, that the statement of the Vice President had been on many points satisfactory, and it had been generally conciliatory. In reply to questions put in the House, the right hon. Gentleman had been good enough to say he would extend the time during which alterations and improvements in schools could be made, and he had also endeavoured to prevent his staff acting too rigorously. But the right hon. Gentleman was mistaken if he thought he had arrived at a *modus vivendi*, and if he supposed that the dissatisfaction with the extreme pressure he had put upon voluntary schools was coming to an end. Wherever he went throughout the country he heard the same complaints of the pressure that had been put upon the managers of voluntary schools. He heard of buildings erected with the approval of the Department two or three years ago being condemned and new buildings being now demanded; he heard of new regulations being applied to old buildings, and of offices upon which large sums of money had been spent, and passed a year or two ago by the Department being now deemed insufficient. He thought he could prove that this pressure was continuing by reading an extract from a letter written by the Secretary of the Canterbury Diocesan Education Society, who writes as follows:—

> "The pressure on us is abnormal, as the following statistics will show:—In 1889 five schools applied for and obtained assistance from the Society. In 1890, 12; in 1891, 14; in 1892, 22; in 1893, 44; in 1894, up to June 1, 31. Upwards of £13,000 of work had been undertaken in the schools that applied to us in the years 1892 and 1893, and about £10,000 more work had been proposed in 1894."

Everywhere the same complaints were being made; and there was no doubt that if the new demands were persisted in, a number of voluntary schools would have to be abandoned, and Board schools would have to take their place. He did not accuse the Vice President of having directly sought that object, because of his opposition to the religious instruction in the voluntary schools, but had this been his motive and his object he could not have done more to attain that object. Many of the demands made were absolutely ridiculous and absurd. In one case objection had been taken to diamond panes in windows, and a demand made that other panes should be substituted. Other schools had been complained of because there were not enough doors with porches to allow of separate entrances for boys and girls. Then there was the question of hat-pegs. Hat-pegs which were scarcely ever used had to be put up in the school buildings. The manager of one school wrote to the effect that at considerable expense they had erected a new cloak-room especially to accommodate the pegs, that on a particular day when he visited the school there were 80 children in attendance, and that, out of 130 pegs erected to please "my Lords of the Education Department," only three were being used. Again, separate playgrounds for boys and girls were demanded. In one school near the village green a playground was demanded. Why could not the children play about the village green? "Oh," it was said, "the boys and the girls would play together. There ought to be separate playgrounds." These sort of demands were ridiculous. Boys and girls were brought up together, and ought to be brought up together, and to make those demands, especially in country villages, when rates were high, and agricultural depression prevailed, the result must be to make the continuance of voluntary schools impossible, and to set up one universal system of School Boards. Of course, some hon. Gentlemen opposite approved of that. The reason of his and his Colleagues' opposition to it was well known. They were not opposed to educational progress, or to the perfecting of our system of elementary education; they were to the improvement of the sanitary condition of the school things; but they said that far more important than any of these changes or the most perfect system of elementary education was an absolute guarantee for religious instruction, and that could only be got, not in Board schools, but in voluntary schools, by which he did not mean Church schools alone, but in the voluntary schools of all religious denominations. Several instances might be given of the way in which the voluntary schools were being harassed. New buildings that were approved of a few years ago were now condemned. In one case a new cloak-room was erected in 1889 and approved of by the Department; in 1893 an Inspector came down and reported that the accommodation was sufficient; but the Department got a private Report on the subject, and they sent down a letter to the manager of the school saying that the ventilation of the building was bad, and that there was not a proper cloak-room. The result was that after the expenditure of large sums of money on the ventilation in 1890, and on the cloak-room in 1889—both of which had been approved of by the Department—the manager had now to pull down the whole school.

Mr. ACLAND: Why pull down the whole school?

Mr. GRIFFITH-BOSCAWEN said, there were other demands of a similar character which made it better to build an entirely new school. Under the same manager there was another school, in which a cloak-room was put up in 1891, and approved of by the Department at the time. The cloak-room was now condemned as a shed and a temporary expedient. That was a state of affairs that ought not to be allowed to continue. They did not ask for finality; they knew that in a matter of this sort, with the population growing and changing, there could not be finality; but they said that a building that was good enough in 1890 must be good enough now, unless there had been a great increase in the population, and that had not been shown. On the contrary, in the district with which he was dealing the population had decreased 25 per cent. since 1891; and notwithstanding that, and, further, notwithstanding the fact that the accommodation was approved of as sufficient by the Department in 1891, the schools were now called upon to build new cloak-rooms. All those unfair and unjust demands on the part of the Department would result in the closing of voluntary schools, and though that might possibly please some of the right hon. Gentleman's supporters, it was a result that the friends of the voluntary system in the House were bound to see that it did not come about if they could possibly prevent it. But it was not only by pressure about new buildings that voluntary schools were being attacked. All sorts of expedients were resorted to—he did not say with the connivance of the right hon. Gentleman, but without his interference—for agitating in favour of School Boards in various places. In one case the Town Council, at a small meeting and by a snap majority, said they would like to have a Board school; but subsequently another meeting of the Town Council was held, and by a large majority that resolution was rescinded. What did the right hon. Gentleman do? He absolutely refused to pay any attention to the second resolution, and acted on the first, and thus a Board school was forced on the town though a large majority was against it. Then there was the case of Birkenhead. In that case a circular was sent round to parents saying that they wanted and could not get free education, and therefore that they ought to petition the right hon. Gentleman for a Board school. Those statements were not true. The schools provided free education, but they said that in cases where the parents were willing to pay a small fee they could do so. But the right hon. Gentleman refused to take any notice of the conduct of persons who sent to him a petition for a School Board upon alleged facts which were not facts, and circulated to the parents statements which were quite untrue.

Mr. ACLAND: I had the most careful inquiry made into the whole case.

Mr. GRIFFITH-BOSCAWEN said, it was news to him to hear there ever was an inquiry; but, if so, he withdrew any personal imputations. There was nother point he wished to refer to. It was in relation to grants given to small schools. The right hon. Gentleman admitted that up to a certain time those grants were given, but that they were now illegal and could not be given in the future.

MR. ACLAND: The grant is given to hundreds of schools at present.

MR. GRIFFITH-BOSCAWEN said, he was aware it was withdrawn in many cases. Another harassing regulation of the Department was that they must be satisfied as to the population in a certain radius before they allowed a grant. That meant that the manager of the school must take a private Census. Hitherto the Regular Census had always been taken by the Department as sufficient; and he questioned whether the managers of schools had any right to pry into the privacy of people by taking a Census of their own.

MR. ACLAND: The Public Accounts Committee ask for it.

MR. GRIFFITH-BOSCAWEN said, that then the Public Accounts Committee asked for something that was perfectly illegal. Interferences of various kinds were made with the voluntary schools, absurd demands as to alterations were made, too little time was given for the carrying out of alterations and improvements and a new reading was given to old Acts of Parliament, all tending to crush out the voluntary schools and make their continued existence impossible. He was not bringing a charge against the right hon. Gentleman. He accepted the right hon. Gentleman's denial that he had any motive for what he had done; but at the same time if this was to be the result of the action of the Department, action dictated it might be by the highest motives and love for education, many people would be bound to offer opposition. He denied that he and his friends were standing in the way of educational progress, but that they must maintain the voluntary schools as the only guarantee for religious instruction; and if the arbitrary powers of the Department were to be used in such a way as to crush out those schools, it would be their duty to oppose the action of the Department on every possible occasion.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint, &c.) said, he was sure the hon. Gentleman who had just spoken would accept the view of the general policy of the Education Department expressed by the Bishop of St. Asaph, the most able and eloquent champion of the Church in Wales, and one who took the keenest interest in the Church schools of his diocese. The Bishop, speaking at a recent meeting of the St. Asaph Diocesan Societies, said—

> "They must take care not to protest against a policy that was going to improve education. He did not want to attribute motives to any political person. He knew that Mr. Acland was supposed to be inspired with hostility to all National schools. He (the Bishop) did not think so. So far as Mr. Acland wished to use his influence for improving their school buildings and to raise to a higher level their educational status, they should do their best to work with him. He was not going to say that there were not a great many Church schools that wanted improving just as Board schools did. But taking things as a whole, he did not think they ought to complain against the requirements. In one or two instances he thought the Department were pressing for things that were not absolutely necessary. But he had not found himself that the Department was asking for anything that was unreasonable."

It would be impossible to have a more complete justification of the policy of the right hon. Gentleman than this statement. The Bishop could be straightforward and candid with his own friends as well as with his opponents, and he (Mr. Herbert Lewis) was sure that no hon. Gentleman opposite would venture to gainsay the testimony of the Bishop to the value of the policy of the Department. The right hon. Gentleman had earned the gratitude of every parent in the country by the effective steps he had taken to brighten and to purify the elementary schools—to make them more healthful and comfortable. The elementary schools were the homes of the children during the greater part of the daytime, and it was absolutely necessary that the children's home should be so built and equipped as to secure the health and well-being of the scholars. No doubt the requirements of the Department had drawn to some extent upon the pockets of the squire and clergyman; but although the taxpayer paid the larger portion of the expense of maintaining the school, they had no voice whatever in its management, and the least they could expect was that the privileged managers should make adequate provision for the health and comfort of the children. He trusted the right hon. Gentleman would steadfastly pursue the enlightened policy which had earned for him the thanks of the community.

*MR. J. G. TALBOT (Oxford University) said, he would not waste the time of the House by adding to what had already been said as to the very satisfactory statement of the right hon. Gentleman and the conciliatory manner in which he had met the various complaints made to him; he admitted that the replies he had given to the questions put to him in the course of the Session had been, generally speaking, satisfactory. One remark he (Mr. Talbot) would make on the general situation. He thought the Vice President of the Council ought to have made an apology to the House in the name of the Government—of which he was an influential Member—for bringing this important subject under discussion as late as the 21st of August. The condition of public business, with all respect to those who managed the affairs of the House, was, to those who had many years' experience of Parliamentary life, a matter of serious concern. Not only had they been obliged to take part in the discussion of measures which many of them thought unnecessary, and at times which were inconvenient, but the whole business of Supply—to transact which was, after all, the main object for which Parliament met—was now crowded into a corner at the fag-end of the Session. And if that were true with regard to Supply generally, it was pre-eminently true of their educational discussions, because the subject did not excite one tithe of the interest which it would have aroused if brought on at a proper time of the year. It was obvious that those who might usually read these Debates were now scattered to the four winds of heaven. The hon. Member for Lanarkshire, in putting a question to the Chancellor of the Exchequer a short time back, had seemed to acquiesce in the present most dangerous condition of things. He had said—

> "Considering the short time available, becoming less this Session, for the discussion of Votes in Committee of Supply,"

and so on. (He Mr. Talbot) quoted that because it seemed that even supporters of the Government who used to pose as the vigilant guardians of the public expenditure were acquiescing in a state of things which a few years ago would have been considered intolerable. They not only acquiesced in the existing state of things, but seemed to contemplate with complacency the fact that it was likely to get worse. Unless the Tory Party, who were generally supposed to ignore the rights of the people, and to acquiesce in all sorts of terrible abuses, stood up for the rights of the people and criticised the action of Ministers, it seemed to him that they would drive Supply more and more into a corner. Though he did not agree with all that had been quoted from the Bishop of St. Asaph, he did not complain so much that the requirements of the Department were heavy as of the manner in which they were pressed on the managers—on the School Boards as well as on the managers of voluntary schools. He would give a few illustrations of the estimated cost of those requirements. In the archdeaconry of Manchester (50 schools) the estimated cost of the requirements was £25,876; in the archdeaconry of Blackburn (39 schools) the estimated cost was £19,186; in the archdeaconry of Lancaster (seven schools) the estimate was £3,034; and in Nottingham borough (22 schools) it was £3,743. In the diocese of Canterbury work amounting to over £18,000 was required in 1892-3, and in 1894 £10,000 worth more work was proposed. The complaint was as to want of finality in the requirements. The case of Whitchurch, in the County of Salop, was a typical instance. Considerable alterations were made in the schools of that place to meet the requirements of Her Majesty's Inspector, who now condemned the schools; and the money spent last year might as well have been thrown into the gutter. At Exton, in Rutlandshire, the Department at first ordered a class room in 1891; the plans were approved and the class room built. In 1893 they said the class room should have another door, and the managers said—

> "We were obliged to knock a hole through the wall. This year they order a gallery. If these things were necessary they should have told us so when the class room was ordered; then they could have been done at little extra cost or without damaging the building."

Another complaint in this parish, was that having doubled the voluntary rate they got a little more than they wanted for that year, and this made a reason for depriving the managers of the small school grant under Article 104. The managers said, "our Report is 'most excellent.'" From Derwent there came a complaint that "offices" had been condemned—

> "Notwithstanding they were re-arranged four years ago to the satisfaction of the District

Sanitary Authority. They are lofty, with ample ventilation."

From Llanymynech in the diocese of St. Asaph there came a complaint that the playgrounds were new, and that now new porches were demanded. Lord Kimberley last year had given the assurance that, although the Department meant to do what they could to put the schools on the best possible footing, they did not intend to do so in a manner that would be oppressive. Unfortunately, however, the Department did not seem to have sufficiently impressed this desire upon their School Inspectors. Another complaint—one he was almost ashamed to make, because it was taking the bread out of the mouth of the hon. Member for Wigan—was as to the 17s. 6d. limit. It was a scandal that this limit should still remain in force. It ought long since to have been increased. It was imposed as representing half the expense of the school, but it no longer represented that half, and it ought to be increased to 20s. or 21s. When, he asked, would good schools cease to be punished in this way for their goodness? The difficulty in obtaining assistant-teachers for small schools was another source of complaint. The Vice President had more than once promised to consider this difficulty, which was also pointed out by Mr. Henry Herbert, Her Majesty's Inspector for Bucks, who wrote in his Report just issued in reference to infant classes—

> "The great difficulty of obtaining suitable assistant teachers for these classes remains. The demand for them is great, the supply of them is small; and of course they look for a salary which will enable them to live respectably. It is this salary question which is often, though not always, the stumbling block. One cannot help sympathising with the managers of voluntary schools who find it so hard to get subscriptions and to make both ends meet, and with the smaller School Boards, who, in the present state of agricultural depression, dare not increase the already heavy rates for the better maintenance of their schools."

Would the Vice President under these exceptional circumstances, vouched for by his own Inspector, go back, at all events temporarily, to the old rule, and in next year's Code alter Article 52 so as to allow pupil teachers who had obtained a second class in the Queen's Scholarship Examination to be recognised as "provisionally certificated teachers"? It was much to be regretted that schools were not encouraged to be solvent. The Department frequently withheld grants to small schools under Articles 104 and 105 if the balance sheet showed satisfactorily a balance on the right side. The withholding of the grant to a school in any single year because the managers had financed the school well was most unsatisfactory. On the other hand, he gratefully acknowledged the action of the Department in the direction of giving up warning schools for want of class subjects.

SIR F. S. POWELL (Wigan) desired to direct the attention of the Vice President to the hardship which was imposed on school managers in consequence of the refusal of the Education Department to allow the interest charged by banks when, pending the receipt of the Government grant, managers had to borrow money to carry on the work of their schools. In such cases the interest charge was struck out of the accounts, whatever sacrifices managers might have made for the purpose of carrying on their work. He also wished to know what course the right hon. Gentleman intended to adopt with reference to Betton's Charity, and whether the scheme dealing with it would be completed before the Prorogation of Parliament? It would be an advantage to education if an arrangement could be made that on some Government night the business should be suspended so that an opportunity might be afforded to hon. Members of discussing the Code for a few hours before midnight. If such an opportunity were allowed many difficulties would be removed. As regarded pensions, he was anxious that a scheme should be sanctioned by the Government. The changes in our system of education had been so great during the last few years that some of the senior teachers could not be expected to be equal to the new demands, and it would be to their advantage and for the benefit of education that they should be honourably retired. He therefore hoped the Government would introduce and pass through Parliament a scheme for that purpose. He asked the Department to assist some of the small rural schools by making admission to the office of mistress more easy, there being many women who could not meet all the requirements of the Code, but who were, nevertheless, perfectly competent to give the necessary instruction. Although, in theory, more efficient teachers might be appointed, many persons would be quite competent as school-mistresses to perform the duties required of them. He entirely endorsed the remarks of his hon. Friend in regard to Cleckheaton, in the West Riding. He was well acquainted with that district, and agreed to what had been said as to half-timers. They began at 11 years of age, and were quite able to walk short distances to school. He expressed regret that the Department was no longer to have the services of Mr. Fitch; but although not officially connected with the cause of education, he hoped the country would long have the advantage of that gentleman's knowledge, experience, and advice. As to examinations in religious knowledge, that gentleman had suggested an alteration of time; hitherto they had been nearly simultaneous. At his suggestion, also, the curriculum in religious subjects had been modified. He hoped the recommendations of Mr. Fitch would be adopted. He deplored the low standard of exemption, and considered it would be a retrograde, almost a fatal, step if the suggestion were adopted that the standard should no longer have any relation to exemption, and that age alone should rule. It was scandalous to see how low that standard was, and if the Local Authorities would not raise it, it would be necessary for the Government to take steps in the matter. Attention should be given to the language of the Inspectors with reference to the action of Magistrates and of attendance committees. The law was not enforced, attendance committees neglected their duty, and Magistrates were far too much led away by mistaken sympathy towards parents rather than by a desire to promote the education of the children. Many years ago Mr. Forster said, "Our first duty, and our paramount duty, is to teach these children to read," but the Reports of the Inspectors on the subject of reading were very disappointing. One Report stated there was a want of power to explain the meaning of what was read even in good schools. Another said the reading was unsatisfactory. Others spoke in the same tone. It was well known that in this matter of education there was no royal road to learning. They knew that in the case of great grammar schools unless a boy was well grounded he would never become a scholar; and so in the case of elementary schools, if the elementary subjects, reading and so forth, were neglected, that solid and substantial progress in education which everybody so much desired would never be made. He had a suspicion in his own mind that at this moment some of the teachers were paying too much attention to their connection with the Universities and to what he might call the higher side of education. With regard to school buildings, the supporters of voluntary schools had no desire to defend unwholesome schools; in fact, those who, like himself, were acquainted with great towns were perfectly alive to the necessity for healthy schools. He did not say for a moment that finality was possible in this matter. Improvements would be made from time to time, and they must be adopted; but there was a great difference between making that admission and objecting, as he did, to unnecessary changes. In some cases class-rooms had been condemned because of some slight defect in dimensions. Such objections were really pedantic and could make no difference whatever in the actual efficiency of the school. In one case that was mentioned to him of a school which was doing excellent work the class-room was somewhat short of the prescribed dimensions, and the requirements of the Department caused the expenditure of £100 in a poverty-stricken district. Such proceedings as that must render education unpopular, and when they were dealing with voluntary managers he did not think that more pressure than necessary should be put upon them. It was not right that a building which had been approved one year should be condemned in the next. Certainly the Government might do all that was necessary or desirable in the way of sanitary improvements without inflicting annoyances on school managers. In cases where the Inspectors suggested alterations some inquiry ought to be held. He certainly, however, felt bound to act fairly to the right hon. Gentleman opposite, and to say that several cases had come before him in the course of the last few weeks in which the Government had made some concessions when the difficulties were submitted to them. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman, having adopted that course in some cases, would not do less in others. He entirely agreed with his hon. Friend that voluntary schools possessed many advantages not possessed by Board schools, one being the full and complete instruction they gave in religious subjects. He believed that education must be largely voluntary, and that unless play was given to individual tastes and theories it would be less effective. While the Cowper-Temple Clause existed the teaching in religious subjects must be imperfect and unsatisfactory. All he desired was to see all work heartily and well together without overlapping, and with education more concentrated under a better system in the interests of the cause they so earnestly desired to promote. Education should be largely voluntary, and sufficient play given to individual feeling within wise limits.

MR. H. S. FOSTER (Suffolk, Lowestoft) thanked the right hon. Gentleman the Vice President for the very prompt way in which he had dealt with the matters brought before him, but he thought that some of the observations of the right hon. Gentleman with regard to the conduct of the Department in dealing with complaints were quite borne out by the facts. He would not then go into details, but he knew that detailed complaints of the conduct of Inspectors had been sent in from four or five schools in his Division which had been treated in a red-tape spirit, though in some cases the Vice President had sent Inspectors to investigate complaints and full justice had been done by the Department. In some cases managers who had fallen under the displeasure of an Inspector had requested that an officer might be sent down by the Department, but their request had been refused, although the strictures of the Inspector were of the most contradictory character, and unless the right hon. Gentleman's attention had been called to the facts gross injustice would have been done. Some Inspectors were a perfect terror to managers and teachers, not because they themselves had in any way done badly in the schools, but because the Inspectors were men of most uncertain temperament, and the future of schools was at their mercy unless the Department was so conducted as to be a fair court of appeal from them. He urged the right hon. Gentleman to impress on the Heads of Departments the duty of not assuming that an Inspector must be right when complaints couched in proper and respectful language were made, and that the managers were wrong. Inquiry should be made, and someone sent down by the Department. As regarded loans borrowed for the purposes of defraying school expenses, he put a question to the right hon. Gentleman three or four months ago whether it would not be possible to make advances to voluntary schools—it did not matter so much in the case of Board schools—to the amount of one-third of the probable annual grant, based on the earnings of the previous year. The voluntary schools ought not to be kept out of their funds a longer time than was absolutely necessary. The managers had to make advances to pay the salaries of teachers, while they were waiting for the grant to come in, which was often a most inconvenient thing to do. Neither the managers nor the teachers ought to be put under personal disabilities of the kind. In any case the Department might consider the propriety and possibility, if it could not accelerate the payment of the annual grant, to allow some of the expenses to be paid out of the grant. He knew a case in which the school year ended on the 31st of May, while the examination might be held at any time in June. The Report, in one instance, did not go in until August, and, as a matter of fact, the fee grant for the quarter ending the 31st of May was not paid until very much later in the year—until November. It was his opinion that the withholding of the fee grant was illegal pending any question of structural alteration. The payment of the fee, again, was regulated, not by the result of the examination, but had reference to the average attendance. When the payment of a grant did not depend upon the results of an examination there ought to be no prolonged delay. The supporters of voluntary schools claimed from the Department fair treatment only for those institutions. They did not ask for any exceptional treatment, but they insisted that the work of the voluntary schools entitled them to consideration and justice. Any system that should result in closing these schools must have the effect of increasing largely the taxpayers' burdens.

Sir R. TEMPLE said, he congratulated the right hon. Gentleman the Minister for Education, but his congratulations could be couched in general terms only. So far as details were concerned, he was not able to extend his congratulations. He should not go through the items of the Vote, but would deal with a few points only. The commonest cause of complaints on the part of the supporters of the voluntary system was that their schools were being constantly pushed out of existence by Board schools. He maintained that the policy of the Education Act was that the School Board system should supplement, but not supplant, the voluntary system. This principle had recently been disregarded by the Department in the case of Buckfastleigh, in Devonshire. A voluntary school established by the Roman Catholics in that neighbourhood had been refused the ordinary grant by the Department because the School Board of the district had thought fit to open a rival school. He contended that the Department had no right to withhold the grant, nor the local School Board to advise that it should be withheld, unless the School Board could show that there was a deficiency of school accommodation, and this they had not done.

Mr. ACLAND: The School Board has a statutory right in this matter.

Sir R. TEMPLE, continuing, said, the action which had been taken in the case was a perversion of the Education Act, and was certainly contrary to the policy pursued by the London School Board. He objected to the practical details in the administration of the Department, and also to the Bill recently introduced by the right hon. Gentleman regarding school attendance, because it made no provision for the *ex officio* District Inspectors being retained on the school attendance committees. With regard to the continuation schools, it was the conviction of most educationists that no purely voluntary system would prove successful. He agreed that unless some limited form of compulsion was applied the continuation school system would never be efficient and satisfactory. A very important matter to which he wished to direct attention was that of superannuation for the teachers, and he could assure the right hon. Gentleman that the teaching world were waiting anxiously for action to be taken on the decision of the Committees appointed to consider the subject. A year and a-half had elapsed since the House favourably expressed its opinion on the question. The Select Committee, who had already reported, had been to some extent superseded by a Departmental Committee, less authoritative and responsible. The right hon. Gentleman could, of course, adopt his own form of procedure, but the great point was to bring the matter to an issue, and it was most earnestly hoped, therefore, that the right hon. Gentleman would move in the matter as soon as he possibly could. He might assure the right hon. Gentleman, at any rate, that he would have no rest in the Office he held until the question was settled. In conclusion, he wished to say that while he would be the last to disparage the merits of the School Board system, which was necessary in some parts of the country, yet he was bound to affirm, as one knowing both sides of the question, that it was impossible for the Board school to be as good as the voluntary school for education all round—for education not merely intellectual, but of a moral and religious character.

Mr. J. STUART said, he thought that the right hon. Gentleman himself could exercise some pressure upon this subject. He should urge himself that the pauper schools should be placed under the Education Department, and that the Vice President should use his influence to bring that change about. In London 7,000 children at least passed through the pauper schools every year, and the passing of these children backwards and forwards between the pauper and the public elementary schools created an element with which the elementary school teachers found great difficulty in dealing, and which retarded the progress of education. Some of the pauper schools could not easily be brought under the Department, but with a large number no difficulty would be experienced. He hoped this question would form one of the subjects of inquiry by the Committee about to be appointed. On another point he wished that the requirements of the Department could be made considerably more stringent. In all parts of the country, and especially in London, there were a large number of classes which were too large for the teachers. A class that was too large was one of the most serious dangers to efficient instruction. The Code referred to a class of 60 as being large enough for one teacher to deal with; and it declared that on no account should the size of the class be more than 15 per cent. larger than that. Without counting the voluntary schools, which were perhaps in a worse position in this respect, there were in the London Board schools many classes of more than 70 pupils, with only one teacher. Indeed, he had a list of a dozen cases where one teacher had to teach a class of over 100. Such a class was useless, and the money spent on it was thrown away.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES said, he should like to be informed upon what principle the Department regulated its demands for increased school accommodation in a School Board district.

MR. TOMLINSON said, he must complain of the extremely rigid view taken by the architect of the Department as to the structural regulations for schools. One of these regulations required that the light should be arranged to come from the left hand or the right hand of the scholars. He knew a recent instance in which eight good windows had been struck out of a plan, making a well-lighted school so dark that a dormer had to be put in. This was generally very unnecessary, and it was improbable that in their work, after leaving school, the scholars would find such conditions observed. They were, in fact, sitting in that House with the light behind and in front. The tone of the Inspectors' Reports was very unsympathetic to voluntary schools. Mr. Cornish cited Preston as a town which had "suffered from the want of the impulse to improvement" supplied by a School Board; but added that a guarantee fund of £10,000 had been raised in Preston for school improvements. As a matter of fact, the fund amounted to £21,000, and it was determined that the backward schools should be brought up to the level of the many existing excellent denominational schools in the town. Mr. Cornish's remarks were uncalled for; and instead of being held up as a bad example, Preston ought to be congratulated on having done so much in education without the interference of a School Board.

MR. ACLAND said, that he had to thank hon. Gentlemen on both sides of the House for the tone of their remarks, and especially the Member for the Flint Boroughs. Though he could not hope to agree with hon. Gentlemen opposite on some matters of principle and many matters of detail, he was glad to know that they recognised his efforts to meet their wishes on some important points. He looked on the provision of pensions not only as for the benefit of the teachers, but as for the benefit of the children. The school at Llangiby, in Monmouthshire, to which reference had been made, was a wretched school, and was not condemned because of a temporary class-room, but because it was not a fit school to exist. He had received many letters encouraging him to carry on the policy of providing cloak-rooms and hat-pegs, one of the strongest reasons given being that the tendency of such arrangements was to avoid infection. The precaution of keeping clothes and hats separate was one which all medical men regarded as of importance. He also agreed as to the importance of providing playgrounds in connection with schools, but they could not insist upon such spaces in all cases. Within two miles of the House of Commons there were 25,000 children in schools which had not a single inch of playground. No one could regard that as a very desirable state of things, and yet it was very difficult to alter. Indeed, the only way in which it could be altered was for generous people who had large sums of money at their disposal to come forward and bear the cost of providing the schools with playgrounds. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for the University of Oxford had referred to the 17s. 6d. limit, but, after the demands which he had made upon the Treasury since he had been in Office, he was afraid there was little chance of that limit being enlarged. The supply of teachers was occupying his attention. He was very unwilling to lower the standard for teachers, but, on the whole, the Department had satisfied themselves that for the present there was no great dearth of teachers. He undertook to go into the question of civil and ecclesiastical parishes to see whether any arrangement could be made to offer relief. The question of bank interest raised by the hon. Member for Wigan was an old-standing difficulty, and the auditors had always disallowed interest on overdrafts. They held that it was capital expenditure, and as such could not appear in the school accounts. The hon. Member for Preston (Mr. Tomlinson) spoke of our demands in regard to light being somewhat excessive. I can only say that I think in difficult places we do not always press our demands, but we think that when new buildings are started those demands ought to be complied with. In the view of those who have looked into this matter it is desirable not to have the light too high, and that the children should be placed sideways to it. I have now done my best to answer all the questions put to me, and I will conclude by saying that I will look into those matters I undertook to look into, and that I hope the friendly relations into which some of the matters have been brought will continue to prevail. I can assure hon. Members opposite that I shall do all in my power to avoid causes of reasonable complaint and to instil into all our Inspectors and officials that they should do what they can to follow the examples of the best Inspectors and officials so as to give as little difficulty as possible either to the Department or to gentlemen opposite. I wish to re-echo the words of the hon. Gentleman opposite as to Mr. Fitch, who was so admirable a servant of the Department for many years—namely, that we regret his loss and feel that he must carry with him into his retirement a sense of duty admirably performed. To him and to many of the Inspectors of officials I owe the warmest thanks.

Question put, and agreed to.

Twenty-third Resolution—

"That a sum, not exceeding £361,122, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Science and Art, and of the various Establishments connected therewith,"

considered.

Mr. BARTLEY (Islington, N.) said, he wished for some information about the new arrangement respecting inspections. He gathered from the right hon. Gentleman's remarks on the previous Vote that he contemplated, in the elementary schools, introducing the system of an annual inspection, but as regarded the Science and Art exhibitions he understood there had been a considerable change in the last year or two, under which the system of employing Royal Engineer officers was being done away with and a system was being adopted upon a sounder basis. If the right hon. Gentleman would tell them his views upon this, which was a matter of some importance and interest, he would reserve his remarks upon other important matters probably to another Session.

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS, who was almost inaudible in the Reporters' Gallery, was understood to say that he wished to refer to the question he raised last night when the Chancellor of the Exchequer had no opportunity to reply. As the right hon. Gentleman (Mr. Acland) then heard what he (Mr. Lewis) had to say with regard to a Central Museum in Wales, he trusted he would be able to give them some hope that the matter would be considered favourably.

Mr. ACLAND said, that in taking the course of removing the Royal Engineer and other officers, a good many of whom were over the maximum age, their object was to constitute such a staff as might be available for the work under the Department. Their object was to add a Resident Inspector, somewhat more learned and trained in educational matters and methods, fitted to carry on inspection work, not only in drawing in elementary schools, but in their Science and Art schools: He did not know that they could jump into a system of pure inspection at once, but by degrees he hoped to lessen the amount of mere paper work and introduce the element of inspection into the examination. In answer to his hon. Friend, he had to say he heard what he had said last night, and he believed that a Museum would be provided for Wales later on. He could, however, say that in the matter of loans Wales had as full and absolute a title to some share in the matter of loans as England, and if a claim was made for a share in these loans he should meet it in the fullest way possible, because he could quite believe in their efficacy in developing education. He had no doubt some place would be found for a Central Museum, but they were unfortunately situated as to the matter of capital. He could only say that if the day arose he should be glad to apply the same system to Wales as was applied in Edinburgh and Dublin.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS said, that perhaps he might explain that his reference to South Kensington last night was not in any sense intended to imply that Wales suffered any injustice whatever in that respect; he was referring to the fact that there was no National Library, no Art Gallery, and no Museum.

Resolution agreed to.

Twenty-fourth Resolution—

"That a sum, not exceeding £80,279, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for the Salaries and Expenses of the British Museum, including the amount required for the Natural History Museum,"

considered.

COLONEL BRIDGEMAN (Bolton) said, he wished to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he would not take into consideration the question of the opening of the British Museum for a slightly longer period than was the case at present? At the end of February the Museum was closed at 4 o'clock, and he had seen people turned out on a bright sunshiny day in February, some years ago, at 4 o'clock when there was at least an hour and a half's daylight left before it would have been necessary to close the Museum. Some few years ago he made the same application with regard to the Natural History Museum, and the hour of closing was extended to half-past 4 o'clock; and he would now ask the right hon. Gentleman if he would bring the question before the Trustees of the Museum?

THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Sir J. T. HIBBERT, Oldham) said, he should be glad to bring the question before the Trustees, as no doubt 4 o'clock was very early on those days when it was not open in the evening, and certainly towards the end of February; at all events it might be continued open for nearly an hour longer, which would be a convenience to a great many persons. As the hon. Member was aware, a large number of persons did visit the Museum in the evenings.

Resolution agreed to.

Twenty-fifth Resolution agreed to.

Twenty-sixth Resolution—

"That a sum, not exceeding £825, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for the Salaries and Expenses of the National Portrait Gallery,"

considered.

SIR F. S. POWELL (Wigan) asked when they might expect the building for the National Portrait Gallery would be opened?

SIR J. T. HIBBERT said, he hoped it might be opened some time before the end of the present year; everything was being prepared with regard to that event, and it was important it should be opened as soon as possible.

Resolution agreed to.

Twenty-seventh Resolution agreed to.

Twenty-eighth Resolution—

"That a sum, not exceeding £50,094, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, in aid of the Expenses of certain Universities and Colleges in Great Britain, and of the Expenses under 'The Welsh Intermediate Education Act, 1889,'"

considered.

Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

SIR F. S. POWELL said, he first desired to tender his acknowledgment to his right hon. Friend the Vice President of the Committee of the Council of Education for the manner in which the right hon. Gentleman had alluded to the views he expressed last year, that there should be a full account presented of the work of the different Colleges. That account had been prepared and it was a most valuable and instructive document, but to his mind it was still defective. The heading of "finance" was of great value, but it would be of greater value if more particulars were asked for. One point they desired to know respecting these Colleges was the amount of fees, and he found that in many cases under the head of "finance" the fees were grouped together in one figure so that they were deprived of all information as to the fees charged to individual students. Another point which he raised last year, and had mentioned in the course of the present Session, was one which, in his judgment and the judgment of those who took an interest in education, was of some importance—namely, a record of the residence of the students in these Colleges. Every College had a Register record in which were mentioned the residences of the students, and what he desired to have was a record showing the home residence of each of the students, not of course their town or country, but showing how many resided in England, how many in Wales, how many in Scotland, and how many in Ireland. The claim of Wales was to have a College for Welsh students, and if it was shown that many of the students came from England, the College was not fostering the purpose for which it was established. He spoke with no unfriendly feeling towards Wales, but he could not help contrasting the £15,000 voted for England with the £12,000 voted for Wales. In the case of England there were 11 Colleges, and in the case of Wales there were three, and when he came to examine the number of students in Wales he found the number of students did not justify such an outlay. The students at Aberystwith at the time the Return was made numbered 217, and the number now, he believed, was 317; the number at Bangor was 149; and the number at Cardiff was 317, making at the time the Return was made up 683 altogether. He certainly hoped these Colleges would grow, as he desired their prosperity; but, at the same time, they must, when so large a grant was voted, have some regard to their present condition. He found that in the case of Aberystwith, with now 317 students, there was a staff of 25; in Bangor, with 149 students, there was a staff of 24; and in the case of Cardiff, with 317 students, there was a staff of 31. He knew perfectly well how necessary it was, in the interest of education, to have a large staff, that in Colleges it was necessary to have an enormously large staff; but, at the same time, he felt that they had in Wales a somewhat redundant staff, and he hoped that those who took an interest in the matter would endeavour to bring the number of pupils more into proportion with the staff. He did not regret the £12,000 that was given to Wales, but he did regret the small sum that was given to England; he was quite prepared to give Wales £12,000, provided they had in England a larger sum than £15,000. Not only was there this great discrepancy, but the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer was reported to have said a few days ago he was willing to give a further grant of £10,000 for the building of one single College. He had not made these remarks in any invidious or unkind spirit towards Wales, and, having made these remarks respecting Wales, he might be permitted to give some few figures regarding England. At Nottingham there were 1,607 students; at Liverpool there were 2,218; and at Owen's College, Manchester, there were 1,307. These were circumstances which, he thought, ought to be considered as showing that if they treated Wales and England with equality and fairness there ought to be a large increase in the sum granted to England. He wished to take this opportunity of saying some words respecting King's College, in London, and it was his duty last year to make some reference to this College. The facts relating to King's College were these: The Government proposed to withdraw the grant from King's College, London, unless it would remove within the present year the denominational test from all teaching other than theological. Anyone reading that document would suppose that that removal could take place by some resolution, by some Act of the College, and that they were masters of the situation and were at liberty to do as they pleased in this matter. Apart from the sense of duty and obligation, on which he would say a word in a moment or two, he must remind the House that the authorities at King's College were bound by Statute. And then, in the distribution of the grant, came this most remarkable passage, which he desired to draw attention to—

> "In the event of the authorities of King's College declining to obtain the suggested alteration in Clause 12 of the King's College Act of 1882, the Committee recommend the grant of £1,700, conditionally granted to King's College, shall be divided as is stated below."

He could find no other case where any authority had been condemned to pay a fine unless an Act of Parliament were passed through this House. But here they had it on the face of the document that except this College made a change in the law it was to be fined to the extent of £1,700 a year. The condition was absolutely monstrous. But even that was not all. That which made the case the more iniquitous was this: except the authorities did cause a change in the law to be made the money was to be devoted to other Colleges. He was a member of the Court of Victoria University, which consisted of three Colleges: Owen's College, Manchester, Liverpool University, and Yorkshire College, Leeds. If his friends on the Council of King's College did not alter the law the Court of Victoria University would gain £1,710. He, as a member of that Court, entirely declined to take advantage of any such proposal. He did not think it right that such a body as the Court of the Victoria University, University College, London, Durham College, Mason's College, Nottingham, and so on, should be tempted by a bribe to exercise the influence of Parliament to the injury of King's College. This proposal was, to his mind, a most tyrannical proceeding. It was said that the proposal had for its object the freeing of education from religious trammels, but he found that none were so fond of their own dogmas as those who were opposed to the dogmas of others. It was a wrong, a cruel, and almost a persecuting thing to remove this amount from King's College because they taught doctrines in accordance with the Church of England. Something like £217,541, derived from voluntary gifts, had to be spent on King's College. The number of day students was (men) 1,206, evening students 1,975, and women students 4,443, whilst 1,300 students attended classes in special subjects. He had, he contended, clearly shown that King's College was erected at great cost and large sacrifices, and that the numbers of students who took advantage of its educational facilities were very great. The education given at the Institution, so far from being of an obsolete character, was full of life and abounded in health and energy. The curriculum, instead of being obsolete and narrow, was of the widest character, including the faculty of theology, arts, engineering, natural science, medicine, and a particular system of training designed for those intending to enter the Civil Service. The apparatus was of a high character—in fact, he believed there was no Institution in England where the apparatus for secular and technical education was of the high character that it was in King's College, London. They had thus a large sum of money given by private benefaction, a large number of students resorting to the College, and ample apparatus for carrying out the objects of the Institution. He believed there was no Institution better equipped than King's College, and none more worthy of support. He declared that to refuse King's College the advantage of this grant because it taught the doctrines of the Church of England was to commit an act of signal injustice, to discourage a liberal education, and to inflict a grievous wrong to the cause of religion. He feared very much if Parliament, without protest, allowed such an Act as this on the part of the Government to pass it might be carried on as regarded their Training Colleges. He had read that night some very emphatic words of Mr. Pitt, wherein he urged the importance of connecting religion with higher education. If that were true as regarded the Training Colleges it was also true as regarded King's College, and if it were sound as regarded King's College, it was also sound as regarded the Training Colleges. He certainly felt that no course would be more reactionary, more contrary to every liberal sentiment, and more in opposition to all that was due to religion, than to say that a College like King's College, which taught religion according to the doctrines of the Church of England—or for that matter according to the doctrines of any single church—on that account was to be fined to the extent of £1,700 a year, and not to be placed on the same level as other Institutions that were inferior in numbers and equipment, and did not perform nearly so good a work in the cause of education.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.) said, the hon. Baronet had avoided strangely all that really related to the case. He would venture to state what the real facts of the case were. First of all let him say, with reference to the hon. Baronet's charges against the Committee, that it was not the Committee which had to make this decision. The Committee were bound by the terms of the Reference to a particular Scheme, and if the hon. Gentleman would look at the terms of the Reference he would find that the Committee were bound by the principle that a share of the grant could not be allowed to any College in which any denominational or religious tests were or could be demanded from any member of the teaching staff other than those occupying Theological Chairs.

Sir F. S. POWELL: I am not blaming the Committee, but the Government.

Mr. BRYCE said, the Committee had to carry out that principle, and they carried it out in the form in which the hon. Member said it had inflicted grievous wrong and injustice on this College. In reply to that he would just say that had the Committee proceeded literally, according to their terms of Reference, or had they taken any other course than that which they had pursued in relation to their notification to the King's College authorities, they must have altogether excluded the College from all consideration in respect of the grant. The Committee, however, had preferred to take a more liberal and indulgent course, and they had therefore suggested to the Treasury that a period of grace should be allowed to the College Authorities within which they might abolish the religious tests for other than Theological Chairs, therefore putting it on the same level with other Colleges that received the grant. That was the process which the hon. Gentleman complained of. The hon. Member said that King's College was bound by Statute. If the hon. Gentleman would look at the Treasury Minute which he would find accompanied the Report he would find the Treasury accepted the principle that King's College should have till the 31st of March, 1895, to obtain the necessary alterations in Clause 12 of King's College Act, 1882, and no doubt an alteration of that kind would be at once granted by Parliament if King's College applied for it, because it would be entirely in harmony with the course Parliament followed in the case of the University of Oxford and Cambridge. He had shown that the Committee were bound by the terms of the Reference, but he could say that if the College Authorities had applied for an extension of the time that had been allowed them for the abolition of the tests, the Treasury would have been glad to have assented to such an application, and every facility would have been given to the College for passing the necessary Bill to enable the term to be extended. He did not think that any hon. Member in that House would have been disposed to offer any opposition to the passing of such a measure. If, however, it was suggested that the period up to March, 1895, was too short and should be extended, that was, no doubt, a matter which the Treasury would be disposed to entertain. Nobody wished that a valuable Institution like King's College should suffer in any way; therefore, on the part of the Treasury, the Government would extend that period if it was thought necessary in the interests of King's College, to enable it to get rid of the test. The hon. Gentleman described this as a case of wanton injustice to the College, and he suggested that the allocation of the money, which would be set free if it did not go to King's College, was to be regarded as a bribe to other University Colleges. Parliament voted the money for University Colleges, and if it was not applied to the particular College of King's College, it must of necessity be devoted to the other University Colleges. The House might think from the tone adopted by the hon. Member that there was some exceptional hardship being inflicted on King's College. What were the facts? There was not, so far as he knew, any sum of public money whatever paid either in England or Scotland to any University possessing a theological test except in its theological faculties. [Hon. Members: What about Ireland?] He was speaking of Great Britain. This was a grant to University Colleges in Great Britain, and it was unnecessary to go beyond Great Britain, nor would it be proper to go beyond Great Britain in a case of this kind where this was a grant to University Colleges in Great Britain. It was with Great Britain only they were concerned. [An hon. Member: What about Ireland?] He must appeal to hon. Members to abstain from these unbecoming interruptions, which did no credit to the cause they advocated. There was not, as he had said, so far as he knew, any grant of public money made in Great Britain to any University or College which had any theological test, except in its theological faculties, and why should an exception be made in the case of King's College to the principle elsewhere universally adopted? In 1871 an Act was passed abolishing theological tests from every one of the ancient Colleges of Oxford and Cambridge, Parliament providing that their ancient endowments should no longer be governed by theological tests, and that University education in this country should be entirely free from theological conditions.

MR. J. G. TALBOT: This is not an ancient College.

MR. BRYCE said, no; and this was not an endowment. This was a grant made by the taxpayers from year to year, and what possible reason could be suggested why the State should remove theological tests from ancient endowments, and at the same time from money which came out of the pockets of the taxpayers should create new endowments with theological tests? This was not an endowment in any sense, but a Parliamentary grant. Parliament obtained this money from the taxpayers of all religious denominations, and yet it was suggested that they should take this sum of money and allot it to one of the denominations giving it, and that Parliament, having itself abolished theological tests in the ancient Universities and Colleges, should devote this money to supporting a theological test at King's College. If this were done Parliament would be going back on its former legislation, would be rendering absurd the principle adopted in 1871, and would be doing a great injustice to other Religious Bodies.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Gloucester, Stroud) said, the hon. Baronet opposite had not at all shown the actual work which was being done by the three University Colleges in Wales. He did not think that in the list of students the hon. Baronet had given the agricultural students were included, nor the students of Cardiff, belonging to the artisan class who attended the evening classes, nor those who attended the lectures given in connection with the County Council under the scheme agreed upon with the authorities. He ventured to say there could be no greater justification for this Vote than the fact that within 10 years of the establishment of these Colleges there should be nearly 600 young men receiving University education in Wales equal to that given in University College or King's College, to which the hon. Baronet referred. With regard to the comparison of the Vote for Wales and England, he submitted that was not a fair comparison to take, because in the Vote for England the immense provisions connected with the ancient Universities were not included at all. The true comparison was with Scotland. He found there was a grant to the Scottish Universities generally of £42,000, to Aberdeen University £12,000, and in addition there was an annual sum of £30,000 payable to these Colleges from the Local Taxation (Scotland) Account, making a total of £84,000, which was paid for Scottish University purposes. The population of Scotland was something over 4,000,000; the population of Wales and Monmouthshire was not very greatly in excess of 2,000,000, and if they took that as a fair comparison it was perfectly obvious that the grants to Wales were not excessive, but were rather under those which, having regard to the population, the people of the Principality might fairly claim.

MR. MOWBRAY (Lancashire, Prestwich) said, his sole justification for rising on the present occasion was that he had the honour of serving with the President of the Board of Trade upon a Committee with regard to the distribution of this grant of £15,000 to University Colleges in Great Britain; and he also had the honour of serving on a previous Committee with regard to the same question in the year 1889. These two Committees, besides representing both sides of the House, contained independent educational authorities. On these two Committees there was no question whatever as to the deserving character of King's College to share in these grants, but the question referred to then was simply what was the quality of the teaching in these various University Colleges, what the amount of work done, the income received from local subscriptions and from fees. He declared that in the two Committees, which sat in 1889 and 1891 respectively, there was no question raised as to the deserving character of King's College to take a grant, nor as to its efficiency, nor the efficient character or quality of the work which it performed.

MR. BRYCE (interposing) said, that no question was now raised as to the efficiency of King's College. It was excluded simply on account of its denominational character. In the Committee of 1891 he entered a *caveat* as to the denominational character of King's College.

MR. MOWBRAY said, that he had mentioned the fact not to elicit that denial, but to bring home to the House the fact that this attempt to deprive King's College of the grant was made not because of any failure of efficiency, but because, more than other Colleges, it added religion to efficient education. He thought his right hon. Friend and his colleague, the hon. Member for South Manchester, never did a worse thing for intermediate, secondary, and higher education in this country than when they introduced into it the demon of religious discord by their note on the denominational character of King's College. There was no necessity for the action of the right hon. Gentleman and his colleague. All the Committee had to consider was the amount and quality of the work done, and on that ground alone they recommended this grant to the College. If this policy was to be pursued in reference to King's College, what was to be done with regard to other Educational Institutions which were more denominational in character, and which received assistance from the public funds? Were they all to be deprived of the Government grant? When the Legislature decided that the ancient endowments of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge should be thrown open without any religious tests, the Legislature did not prevent the endowment of sections of Colleges with denominational endowments, and at this moment half a College at Oxford was enjoying all the rights and privileges of the Colleges of the University of Oxford, although that College was confined to members of the Church of England by a recent endowment. There were also Training Colleges of a denominational character in this country which received grants. It was only last year that there was a discussion in the House with regard to Denominational Training Colleges in Ireland; and the Irish Members acknowledged that the Leader of the Opposition had done them justice in supporting the grants to the Denominational Training Colleges. Surely the people on this side of St. George's Channel had the same right to denominational education as the people on the other side of the Channel. But if this treatment was to be applied to King's College, what was to become of the principle on which the voluntary schools in primary education received grants from the public? The right hon. Gentleman the Minister for Education denied the accusation that he wished to do away with those voluntary schools. That showed that those schools, according to the admission of right hon. Gentlemen and hon. Gentlemen opposite, had the right to receive assistance from the public funds; and then how could they say that King's College was absolutely disqualified to receive assistance because of its denominational character? They said—"Oh, but this College could purge itself of its offence." Yes; being a denominational institution, if it was prepared to put itself into the position of Mr. Jabez Balfour, of having obtained money for one purpose and of applying it to something else. Since the foundation of King's College £200,000 had been expended on buildings, and the actual tenure of the site had been granted to the College upon the consideration that it should always be used for education in connection with the principles of the Church of England. Of course, hon. Gentlemen opposite who were ready to repudiate all contracts might be ready to repudiate this contract; but he did not think that the English people, with their sense of fairness and justice, would consider that King's College, in being asked to repudiate the conditions on which it received its endowments, was not being fairly treated by the Government. He had not the slightest interest in King's College; and, personally, he had very little sympathy with religious tests; but he thought the Government were treating the College very unfairly from an educational point of view. It was said that it was the desire of the Government to develop higher education, but he said that they had struck a blow at higher education by the line they had taken in this matter. To refuse endowments because they were denominational was very much as if they cut their nose in order to spite their face. Whether denominational tests were good or not, they must remember that one of the strongest motives that men had to devote their money to those Denominational Institutions was that they might do something for the religion in which they believed; and undoubtedly, in the future, if their unfortunate scheme was carried out, the Government would be doing a great deal to hamper and destroy secondary and higher education in this country.

SIR J. T. HIBBERT appealed to the House, having regard to the large amount of business which remained to be done, to come to a decision at once on this question.

***MR. J. G. TALBOT** said, that this was a sample of the manner in which English Members were treated. An important grievance of English Members was to be discussed and disposed of in half an hour; whereas a grievance of the same character affecting the Roman Catholic Church would be discussed by the Irish Members for a couple of nights. A grosser case of religious intolerance than this of King's College had seldom been witnessed. This was a recent foundation upon definite principles, and the proposition of Her Majesty's Government was, "If you want to have your grant, give up your principles." A more nefarious way of treating those who had convictions he had never heard. When the Chancellor of the Exchequer condescended to gratify the feelings of some of his supporters by saying that in future he would not allow any grant to a College which had a denominational flavour, he was doing that which was absolutely inconsistent, and quite unworthy of his position. If they dared to carry out this anti-denominational principle the Government would bring down upon them the whole force of their Irish supporters. This College was founded in 1829, and was solemnly recognised by Act of Parliament in 1882. In the Charter words were used providing that

> "instruction in the doctrines of Christianity as taught by the Church of England is to be for ever combined with other branches of useful education."

Hitherto King's College had received £1,700 a year—its share of £15,000 a year amongst 12 University Colleges; but this grant was now to be withdrawn. Why? Because it had acted upon its foundation principles. If a Division was taken he would gladly support his hon. Friend.

MR. BARTLEY said, that this was not a matter of conscience in any sense; it was simply a question of votes with the Government. The right hon. Gentleman said that this was not done in England or Scotland, but he carefully avoided all reference to Ireland. The House had come to this—that for the sake of votes on one side or the other any amount of principle was thrown to the winds by the Government. If the right hon. Gentleman dared to do anything of the sort he proposed to do to King's College to Roman Catholics he would be flung off the Treasury Bench in the morning. This King's College was established to carry on a system of education on the basis of the doctrines of the Church of England. That was a proper Institution to establish, and the House had every right to support it. They knew that the votes given for denominational teaching in Ireland were given absolutely and solely on the condition that the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church were to be taught as the essential basis of the system of education. They knew that the Irish people would not take the money on any other condition. Why, then, should not King's College get a grant? Simply because some of the followers of the Government desired to destroy denominational teaching. The proposed action of the Government in regard to King's College was most intolerant, and he believed that the great bulk of the religious Dissenters of the country wished for nothing more than fair play all round. He was not ashamed to say that there ought to be Nonconformist Training Colleges getting grants from the public funds. It was done in Ireland, and he did not see why it should not be done in England.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes 79; Noes 35.—(Division List, No. 243.)

Twenty-ninth Resolution agreed to.

Thirtieth Resolution—

> "That a sum, not exceeding £485,449, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for Public Education in Scotland,"

considered.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid): This Vote relates to a matter of considerable and general importance. We have reliable statistics annually made up, of the number of horses, cows, sheep, and pigs in the United Kingdom, but we have no statistics of the number of children receiving education in schools in Scotland. Children are educated partly in State-aided and partly in non-State-aided schools. We have the statistics relating to the State-aided schools, but we have no statistics with reference to the non-State-aided schools. Without the aid of the statistics in both classes of schools we are unable either to ascertain the existing state of education in Scotland or to compare one year with another. There may, for instance, be an increase in the attendance at State-aided schools, but we do not know how far that increase may have arisen from a decrease in the attendance at non-State-aided schools. There is no reason why we should be in this state of ignorance regarding education in Scotland. The Scotch Education Department and the School Boards in every parish in Scotland are charged with the duty of seeing that every child of school age is being properly educated. A School Board ought, therefore, to know where each child in the parish is being educated; and whether the instruction given at any non-State-aided school is efficient instruction. The Glasgow School Board have the annual statistics of the attendance at all the non-State-aided schools within their jurisdiction, and there is no reason why every other School Board in Scotland should not have the same statistics. If there be any defect in legislation to obtain this information it is obviously the duty of the Department to remedy this defect, and any Bill to confer such powers would no doubt pass this House with the unanimous assent of both sides. The Annual Report of the Scotch Education Department (following the precedent of former Reports) sets forth a table, page VI.—

> "To exhibit the results in a statistical form, and to draw reliable inferences as to the progress of education."

In Scotland, since 1872, it gives the average attendance in 1872 as 213,549, and in 1893 as 542,851, showing an increase in 1893 over 1872 of 329,302, or an increase of 154 per cent. in the average attendance at school in Scotland. If this were anything like a fair representation of the state of education in Scotland in 1872, then Scotch education, contrary to the general belief, must have been in a very poor state. The comparison, however, ignores the fact that in Scotland in 1872, whilst there was only an average attendance in State-aided schools of 213,549, the total number of children between the ages of five and 15 receiving education in that year was 550,000. Thousands of children who, in 1872, were attending non-State-aided schools have since been transferred to State-aided schools, thus, no doubt, swelling the attendance at the latter schools, but without any corresponding increase in the number of children receiving education in Scotland. There is not time to go into the details of the statistics on the present occasion, but it can be demonstrated that, after making due allowance for the increase of population, the number of children receiving education in Scotland has only increased by about 10 per cent., instead of the 154 per cent. as shown in the statistics of the Department. The fallacy in the comparison made by the Department between 1872 and 1893 lies in their taking only the statistics of the State-aided schools, and altogether ignoring the non-State-aided schools. Fifty per cent. of the children receiving education in Scotland in 1872 were receiving it outside of the State-aided schools, as against only 10 per cent. at the present time. As an evidence of the growth of secondary education in Scotland, the Department might equally as well found on the statistics that, whilst in 1888 there were only 29 schools, and only 972 candidates examined in secondary subjects, those had increased in last year to 132 schools, and 7,148 candidates, being an increase of 700 per cent. As regards school accommodation, there is accommodation for 768,540 children. The average attendance is only 563,286, thus showing a surplus of school places of 205,254, which at £10 per school place represents a capital of upwards of £2,000,000. The Department go into statistics to make out that there ought to be at school each day 681,719, children; but as the average attendance is only 563,286, it shows, according to their statistics, that there are 118,433 children daily less at school in Scotland than there ought to be. Then why are these children not at school? It is the duty of the Department and of School Boards throughout the country to see that every child is at school who ought to be at school. The Department cannot set up this high number who ought to be at school as an excuse for the excessive school accommodation, without at the same time condemning themselves for laxity of administration as regards the school attendance. The school accommodation throughout Scotland, especially in the rural districts, is absurdly high notwithstanding all the attempts of the Department to explain it away. It is the number of children in actual daily average attendance who have to be provided for, and not any theoretical number which can be shown on paper. Passing to the question of the standard of instruction, I find that during the last two or three years there has been a great change in the mode of examination. Formerly it was individual, and as a result we had individual progress and an increase in attendance in the higher standards, *i.e.*, Standard IV. and upwards. Now it is more a school and class examination, and the payments are based on average attendance. The result is, that the average attendance has greatly increased. Whilst the school register has increased by 8,582, the average attendance has increased by 13,866. The increase in average attendance does not necessarily show educational progress. Average attendance is capable of manipulation. The total attendances at the school are added together and divided by the number of times the school is open. When the school attendance is abnormally low the average attendance may be increased by closing the school during the period of depression. Then every attendance of the most irregular and casual attender is counted equally with every attendance of the most regular attender. Whilst every attendance of the most regular attender is counted for payment, yet the attendance beyond the average is not educationally profitable, as each child has to keep pace with the average of the class. All deductions of educational progress from an increase in the average attendance are therefore utterly unreliable. As a check upon manipulation of the average attendance, we ought to have a Return of the number of times the school was open during the year and compare it with previous years. It was stated and expected that the change of examination from individual to school or class examination would enable the teacher to devote more time to clever scholars. Let us see how far this has been justified by the result. Up till the change was made we find great and annually increasing attendances, presentations, and passes in the higher standards and in specific subjects. The Department does not help us to compare the numbers on the roll, or the presentations in the various standards. We ought to have these statistics for comparison. From materials on hand we can make out that not only is the former annual increase on the higher standards arrested, but there is a positive decrease in the higher standard. As this is a matter of great importance, I have gone into it most carefully and minutely, and will give the result in the Report of the Southern Division. I find from the table of Dr. Kerr, the Chief Inspector for Scotland, page 7, that whilst the children in and under Standard III. had increased by 1,474, those in IV., V., and VI. had decreased by 663, notwithstanding a largely increased average attendance. In the Report of the Western Division, Dr. Ogilvie points out, page 4, that whilst the average attendance had increased by 14,570 scholars there were only 2,385 additional presented, and there were as many as 779 fewer in Standards IV., V., and VI. In the Report of the Northern Division of Dr. Stewart we find, page 3, that whilst the numbers in average attendance had increased by 2,238, the numbers presented had only increased by 477; whilst those presented in Standards IV., V., and VI. had decreased by 124. Comparing this Northern Division with the year 1891, we find a decrease of 5,548 of presentations in Standards IV. to VI. So far as we have material to judge of the state and progress of the higher Standards IV. to VI., the results are eminently unsatisfactory and on the downward grade. Turning now to passes in specific subjects, we find an equally unsatisfactory state of matters. Instead of the annually increasing progress to which we were accustomed, we have to complain not only of the arrestment of progress, but of actual decline, and here we deal with individual passes, the only remnant of former individual examination. Whilst there was an increase of 174 in the number presented in three subjects, there was only an increase of 13 in the numbers who passed; and whilst there was an increase of 451 in the number presented in two subjects, there was an actual decrease of 27 in the number who passed. Comparing this with the year 1891, we find 1893 showing a decrease of 408 passes in three subjects, and a decrease of 576 passes in two subjects. These specific subjects practically include the work done in Ex. VI. The Tables show that there was an increase of 880 in the number examined in 1893 in Ex. VI., although the results indicated show a decrease in the passes for specific subjects 3 and 2. It would be interesting if we could trace how this increase in the numbers examined in Ex. VI. arises when there has been a decrease in Standards IV. to VI. Probably we shall find the explanation to be that, owing to the abolition of school fees, parents have withdrawn their children from better-class private schools, and whilst their numbers have prevented the decrease from being greater than it otherwise would have been in Standards IV. to VI., yet the numbers have been so comparatively large in Ex. VI. as actually to show an increase in the numbers examined in Ex. VI. I do not attach much importance to the improvement in the number of schools classified as "Excellent," "Good," or "Fair." As this classification affects the amount of grant, there will be a certain amount of pressure, both on the part of the teacher and the School Board to have every school possible advanced to "Excellent." We may, therefore, expect an increasing annual improvement in this respect, even although the actual educational results may show a decline of education, both in quantity and quality, in the higher standards and subjects. I now turn to the question of the supply of teachers, which is an important matter. The main source of supply of certificated teachers comes through the Training Colleges, which, although mainly, and to the extent of about £32,000, are annually supported by Government grant, are nevertheless denominational. They are situate in Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Aberdeen, and are connected three with the Church of Scotland, three with the Free Church of Scotland, and one with the Episcopal Church. These Training Colleges accommodate only 854 teachers; and as the curriculum extends over a period of two years, this represents an annual output of only 427 certificated teachers by these Colleges. For many years past the number of teachers annually certificated has not been sufficient to meet the annual waste (6 per cent.) plus the increasing school attendance, and certain action of the Department tended some time ago seriously to diminish the output of certificated teachers. The result is that a great scarcity of certificated teachers has been felt throughout Scotland. The scarcity has been felt mostly in the poorer districts, as the larger School Boards by the higher salaries offered can always command a choice of applicants. The policy of restricting the output of teachers may, in the long run, tend to raise the salaries of the teachers, but the immediate and future effect will be disastrous to education. The dearth of trained teachers, owing to the defective supply of the Training Colleges, has taken years to bring about, and the remedy will take years before it can become effective. It requires 496, or 6 per cent. of their number, to meet the annual waste of certificated teachers by death, resignation, &c. The Training Colleges, as presently constituted, are not able to meet this annual waste, much less to supply the increased number of certificated teachers to meet the annual increasing school attendance. The increase was partly met last year and to the extent of 42 by graduates. Then there were last year 122 acting teachers —an increase of 107 over the preceding year—who passed the examination and were certificated, but who had no training in Training Colleges. The result is an increasing number of untrained certificated teachers, which every Inspector is deploring. This dearth in the supply of trained certificated teachers arises from the inadequacy of the Training Colleges to accommodate more than about 427 annually. Last year there were 689 applicants duly qualified to enter the Training Colleges, but, solely from want of room (there being only 423 vacancies), no fewer than 266 duly-qualified applicants, who had served their apprenticeship and who had passed their examination, were turned adrift. If was cruel to these 266 applicants, who had served their apprenticeship and passed their examination, who would require to take situations as acting teachers in the hope of some future day becoming certified, but without the advantage and prestige of being College trained. The loss is great to the interest of education, as it increases what is deplored as being the untrained teaching element. Dr. Ogilvie in his Report, page 8, says—

> "The teaching staff, so far as it is recruited from the Training Colleges and the Universities, is steadily advancing in breadth of culture and general efficiency. But the supply through these channels falls materially short of the demand, and the balance is maintained by the rush of acting teachers through the gateway of the Christmas examination. The growing predominance of untrained teachers is a regrettable necessity."

Dr. Kerr, in his interesting Report on Training Colleges, refers to the same thing. When on this subject I want to know from the Secretary of Scotland if the Department have considered Dr. Kerr's Report; and what conclusion they have come to regarding the anomalies he points out on page 2 with regard to admission to the Training Colleges and on pages 38 and 39 to his observations on the proposed alterations of dates of examination? It is obvious that we ought to have Training Colleges under the State or connected with the Universities. Everyone qualified to enter the Training Colleges ought to have the means of doing it. We spend £1,500,000 of Imperial and local ratepayers' money on this, but the benefits from that expenditure are jeopardised by defective arrangements as to Training Colleges. As to pupil teachers, as all but 3 per cent. of the students in the Training Colleges have been pupil teachers, the importance of this class becomes strikingly apparent. From all quarters comes unsatisfactory reports regarding the pupil teachers. Dr. Kerr says (page 2)—

> "The difficulty of obtaining suitable male candidates as pupil teachers is a steadily increasing one."

(Page 23)—

> "The results of the examination of pupil teachers compares unfavourably with those of former years."

These are the points I have thought it my duty to bring before the House as to Scotch Education. To read the Report of the Scotch Education Department one would think that Scotland was getting on extraordinarily well as to education, but when we come to look at the facts we find that such is not the case. Beginning at the pupil teachers and going up to the Training Colleges things are not what they ought to be. Then when we come to the schools we find there is a decrease in passes in the higher standards where formerly there were great increases. Surely, then, the time has come to say something on this important question.

*MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire) said, he desired to say a few words on this Vote, though he fully realised that the circumstances of the time imposed on him the obligation of compressing his observations into as small a compass as possible. By the recent Act £60,000 was voted for secondary education, and of this £3,000 was set apart for inspection and examinations, and his point was that this sum was wasted under the present arrangements. First, as to inspection, what was required was that it should be divided in such a way as to ensure a common standard. They knew how such a standard could be secured. They had in their elementary schools an excellent system of School Inspectors. The Inspectors were not only highly-educated gentlemen, but gentlemen devoted to their work, who gave their whole time to it and inspired general confidence. What would be said if it were proposed that this system should be put an end to, and that in the place of the present Inspectors they should have a motley crowd of men who would carry on their ordinary avocations whilst inspecting. And yet this was no travesty of what took place in connection with secondary education. The Inspectors consisted of University Professors, Scotch College Professors, English Professors, an advocate, and a number of Inspectors of primary schools. What he wanted to impress on the Scotch Education Office was the necessity for the employment of efficient Inspectors. He urged them to throw aside the present system and to spend the money on one or two Inspectors of secondary education, who would devote their whole time to the work. With regard to the leaving certificate, he advocated the adoption of a system which would ensure uniformity and make the certificate a standard to which some importance might be attached. Under present circumstances the leaving certificate was absolutely useless. If a young man applied for a situation on the strength of a leaving certificate, of what value was it? It might mean nothing, or something, or a good deal. If the young man had been examined in French it meant that he was an indifferent scholar; if in English that he was tolerably instructed; while, if he had passed the Rhadamantine examination in arithmetic it might mean that the young man was of a calibre something approaching Newton or Descartes. Such a system was worse than useless, and the money expended upon it might be much better spent.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Sir G. TREVELYAN, Glasgow, Bridgeton) said, the hon. Member for Lanark complained that the House had not sufficient education statistics for Scotland, and urged that an annual Census should be taken of children in other schools than schools subsidised by the Board. There were plenty of statistics to show that, under the system of public subsidy and public inspection, Scotch education had been steadily improving. The present statistics were exceedingly satisfactory. In 1878 there were 50,000 children in elementary schools not inspected or subsidised by the State. The statistics on this point were not very reliable, because they had to be obtained from the schools themselves, who were not in any way bound to give them. In 1890 there were 540,000 children in average attendance; in 1891-2 there were 549,000; and in 1892-93 there were 560,000. The evening schools, which 12 months ago numbered 275, now numbered 680.

MR. CALDWELL said, he had not spoken of evening schools.

SIR G. TREVELYAN said, that attacks had been made on the grant in proportion to the number of scholars. The grant for these schools last year was £10,000, and he very much doubted whether the Estimate of £27,000 for this year would not be seriously under the mark. It was said that the passes in the higher subjects were not increasing, but when they came to look at the real state of higher education they found the results in Scotland proportionately much better than in England. A report from a Highland school in Banffshire with 500 boys and girls stated that specific subjects were largely taken, and that the results were very satisfactory; several scholars were doing advanced work in languages and mathematics; excellent discipline was maintained, and the school was not overcrowded. He would not say that was absolutely a specimen Report, but hon. Members would agree that it was a very good one for a Highland school in a remote district. They might be quite sure that the same result was shown in other stages. His noble Friend had referred to the change in the system of inspection, which was no longer an individual system, but a general inspection of the whole school judged from the general standard of education. The change was undoubtedly a very bold one, but, on the whole, he believed it to be thoroughly satisfactory, because it afforded more latitude for classification in the schools and led to more education being given and less cramming. As to the difficulty of finding certificated teachers in Scotland, what was the reason? While in England 40 per cent. of the teachers were certificated, in Scotland no less than 55 per cent. were certificated. There was a difficulty in keeping up this great number of certificated teachers, and, as this number could not be entirely provided by the Training Colleges, he thought it would be well if they extended to Scotland that portion of the English system which enabled non-resident students to be educated in the Universities in the great cities of Scotland. The hon. Member for Kincardineshire had asked a question upon an interesting point. The great point in Scotch education was the manner in which the higher ambitions had been opened to the great mass of the population by the leaving certificate which was accepted by all the great educational bodies and by the State as an entry to its service. The method of giving small payments of £20 or £30 a year to able young men fresh from their University studies was, he thought, the very best way in which the money could be spent, not only in inspection, but in examinations for the merit certificates. It was a better system than paying high increasing salaries to men who in 20 or 30 years would become stale for their work. It was a kind of inspection which thoroughly succeeded; it was well adapted for Scotland, and had been permanently taken up by the whole educational body in that country.

Resolution agreed to.

Thirty-first Resolution agreed to.

Subsequent Resolutions postponed.

Resolutions One to Thirteen further postponed.

Fourteenth Resolution,

"That a sum, not exceeding £499,792, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland,"

considered.

MR. KNOX (Cavan, W.) said, the hon. Member for Roscommon had drawn attention to the books issued from time to time for use in the national schools in Ireland, and pressed on the attention of the Chief Secretary the fact that no history of any country might be used in any elementary school in Ireland as a reading-book. From the Student's Hume down to Pinnock's Catechism they had all been refused, book after book, and the same thing applied to the histories of Ireland itself. In spite of the repeated efforts of the clergy and others of all denominations, not merely were the histories of Ireland and England prohibited from being used as reading-books in the schools, but also those of Greece and Rome. So strongly did the Commissioners desire to keep from the national schools anything belonging to the outer world, that when Sister Ursula, of the Convent in Dublin, applied for leave to use such a book as *Brilliant Speakers and Wise Thinkers*, one of Dr. Arnold's works, it was refused. That was what happened in all cases, however innocent the work might be, and though applied for by persons of various political views. One was tempted to ask whether some innocent history of Ireland might not be found, leaving out all reference to the sieges of Derry and Limerick, for use in Irish schools? History was a subject which every child should have some knowledge of, and he pressed the Chief Secretary for Ireland to use his influence to persuade the Commissioners to relax their rule. With reference to the fee grant, he pointed out that in 1891 the total sum set apart from the Probate Duties was to be divided in the proportion of 80 per cent. to England, 11 per cent. to Scotland, and 9 per cent. to Ireland. In 1892 the grant was first made to Ireland, and her share amounted then to £210,000. Since that date, in spite of the fact that the sum to be so distributed had very largely increased, the share allotted to Ireland had remained absolutely at the same figure each year. It was represented at the time that by giving about 8s. per head for the Irish schools, they would not receive an equivalent benefit, while the grant for England had been increased by leaps and bounds. If they received in the same proportion they would have got £30,000 more at least. In consequence of this restriction the capitation grant had been cut down year by year, and while English teachers were getting their stationary 10s. for each pupil, the Irish masters were receiving less and less as the years went on. He trusted, therefore, that the right hon. Gentleman would see when the Estimates were made up next year that Ireland received, in place of this fixed sum of £210,000, whatever amount her share of 9 per cent. of the total grant came to. It was a subject also of complaint that the schools of the Christian Brotherhood had not been admitted into the educational system of Ireland, and he hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would be able to give them some definite information in regard to the matter. They had further, throughout the country, a strong feeling in favour of the teachers. The point at issue was a narrow one. The Christian Brothers were willing to adopt the time-table and to submit their books for the sanction of the National Board, but they still said that inasmuch as for many years they had endured much hardship and poverty to retain the use of certain images in their schools, they would not now consent to give them up, or indeed to hide them in cupboards. Contrary to the wishes of the Protestant and Catholic members of the National Board and of the Public Bodies throughout Ireland, the right hon. Gentleman still refused to admit the Christian Brothers' schools to the Irish educational system unless they put the crucifix into the cupboard. That was substantially the only point of difference. The National Board consisted of equal numbers of Protestants and Catholics, and by an enormous majority it had decided in favour of admitting the Christian Brothers' schools. The only opposition came from a small section of the Presbyterian Body; and it was a most hollow sham, for the Presbyterians were the keenest denominationalists in educational matters to be found in Ireland. While there were 12,600 Episcopalian children under Catholic teachers, there were only 3,900 Presbyterian children, and the total numbers of Episcopalian and Presbyterian children in the Irish schools were about equal. He hoped the Chief Secretary would not allow himself to be ruled by a small section of the Presbyterian General Assembly which did not in this matter really represent the feelings of the Presbyterian community. Great pecuniary hardship was caused to the Catholics in the southern towns, where they were paying school fees and subscriptions to keep open their schools, which received no public grant, while the Protestant schools were free. In Ireland the same rule with regard to pictures and images in schools should be applied as was applied in England. He moved the reduction of the Vote by £1,000, but he hoped that the Chief Secretary would make it unnecessary to go to a Division by declaring that he was willing to admit the schools of the Christian Brothers to the benefits of the grant.

Amendment proposed, to leave out "£499,792," and insert "£498,792."—(*Mr. Knox.*)

Question proposed, "That £499,792 stand part of the Resolution."

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. J. MORLEY, Newcastle-upon-Tyne) said, his hon. and learned Friend had touched on three topics of varying degrees of importance; and in none of those was he very far from his hon. and learned Friend, not even in the last. In the first place, his hon. and learned Friend had referred to the books sanctioned and circulated by the National Board. He (Mr. J. Morley) had said more than once since he had been in Office that, in his judgment, it was to be regretted there was not a more open field for competition in this question of books. But the contention of the National Board that their books were sold at cost price was an important consideration. The hon. and learned Gentleman went a little far in some of his demands. He talked about sanctioning the use of an "innocent history of Ireland." Such a history would have to omit any mention of the Siege of Derry or the Battle of the Boyne, and other events. He (Mr. J. Morley) hoped to see the day when Irishmen would be able to look back on those events with something like the same composure with which Englishmen looked back at the incidents of the Civil War. It was quite true that the embers were still smouldering, but in the meantime he did not see how an "innocent history of Ireland" was going to be written. A history might be written in the tone of composure to which he had referred, but its circulation in the national schools of Ireland would only be possible when the mind and heart of the country had become more composed. He fully agreed with his hon. and learned Friend that the field of competition was not wide enough in regard to these books. He had no fault to find with the account given by the hon. Member of the provisions of the Act of 1892. It was arranged that Ireland should have 9 per cent. of the total fund, Scotland 11 per cent., and England 3 per cent., and he was now carefully considering whether the fixed sum of £210,000 given to Ireland under it should remain fixed at that figure. The whole question turned upon the legal construction of the words of the Act of 1892. He felt that there was a strong *primâ facie* case made out for an increase of the £210,000 to something, at all events, like the proportion of the English grant. He was doing the best to ascertain the best legal interpretation which could be found in Ireland of the words referred to. It was not an easy question, but he felt that the case of Ireland was rather a hard one. He did not know whether, in the opinion of those who were interested in national education in Ireland, an increased sum could be profitably and wisely expended, but he assured his hon. Friend he was giving his attention to the matter. With reference to the burning question of the Christian Brothers, he quite admitted that his hon. Friend had made a very strong case with reference to Irish opinion, but at the same time he thought he had put the case somewhat higher than all the facts would justify. His hon. Friend had said that the Christian Brothers were far more popular than other teachers. He was not quite sure that his hon. Friend could substantiate that proposition. He (Mr. J. Morley) recognised the admirable work that had been done by the Christian Brothers. He recognised the high opinion which was entertained of them by educational experts, not only in Ireland but in England, and he thought his right hon. Friend the Educational Minister in England (Mr. A. Acland) who had in times past gone over the Christian Brothers' schools, would probably go as far as anybody in recognising the educational service they had done and were doing; but to say that opinion was entirely unanimous was going a little too far. His hon. Friend should not forget that there was a great organised body of National school teachers in Ireland, and he was not at all sure that they would particularly welcome the participation of the Christian Brothers in the education grant.

Mr. KNOX said, that the resolutions of the school teachers had proceeded on the assumption that the grant was a stationary sum, and of course they did not want that to be divided up amongst a larger number of people.

Mr. J. MORLEY said, he thought that the school teachers of Ireland, although most of them were Catholics, had a very zealous or a very strong desire that the view of his hon. Friend should be conceded. He did not say that was a decisive argument, but he thought his hon. Friend put the case somewhat higher than the fact justified. His hon. Friend had said that the Christian Brothers were willing to submit their books to the examination and inspection of the National Board, and, if they were not approved of, to substitute others or accept the National Board books. As far as his (Mr. J. Morley's) knowledge went, the Christian Brothers had declared they were prepared to go to this extent: that if there should be any school with which they were connected in which there were Protestant children whose parents objected to certain books, those children should be allowed to use other books which would be more congenial to their parents. That was very different from submitting the books to the National Board. The hon. Gentleman had referred to sacred emblems, which was the great point of difficulty in this question, and had spoken about locking up emblems in cupboards. He had himself been about in convent schools which were affiliated with the National Board, and it was in these convent and monastic schools that one found this locking up of sacred emblems in cupboards during certain hours. He was bound to say that from whatever point of view they regarded the system—whether from the point of view of those who regarded those emblems as sacred, or from the point of view of those who, like himself, regarded them as not being sacred—from whatever point of view they regarded it, he thought the system of locking up sacred emblems during certain hours, and then revealing them, was a monstrous humiliation to those who had to undergo it, and not much less a humiliation to those who imposed it. He was certain that in the case of a school where there were some Protestant children, and where this humiliating restriction was resorted to, the effect of this artificial concealment during certain hours could be nothing but to arouse curiosity and to excite those feelings which Protestant parents would desire not to be stirred up or aroused. In England, in a similar case, this humiliating arrangement did not exist, and he did not think that anything was gained by such a device. So far as he was concerned, he should like to see some arrangement arrived at, and he did not despair of an arrangement being arrived at by which the Christian Brothers might be placed in the same position as the convent schools in Ireland without those odious and humiliating restrictions. He should like to say this further. The late Government passed in 1892 a Compulsory Education Act. That Act was at the present moment, owing to the careless way in which it was passed—he did not apportion the blame for the carelessness—in the very places where it was most desirable that it should be effective and operative, something like a dead letter. In Cork, Waterford, Limerick, and several other places the Act was practically a dead letter, and in other places it was much less in operation than it ought to be.

And why? Partly because there were technical difficulties under the Act which unfortunately he had been unable to get that House to set right, and in no small degree because the Christian Brothers were not admitted. He believed the question for the House of Commons was this: Did they or did they not wish that the Act of 1892 giving to Ireland, which needed it much more than England or Scotland did, a compulsory system of education, should be operative and effective in Ireland? If Parliament intended that compulsion should become the educational law in Ireland as it was in England, depend upon it that sooner or later steps would have to be taken and provisions would have to be devised by which the Christian Brothers would be permitted to participate in the educational grant. He did not think that the proposals made by the majority of the National Board to carry out that object would work. They were too crude; but this he did say: that some scheme would have to be devised; and he repeated that he did not despair himself of framing some proposals which might be suggested to the National Board when the time came which would have the effect of including the Christian Brothers' schools amongst the schools which participated in the education grant, and until that was done, by himself or some other Minister, the Act of 1892, which Parliament had passed with the full intention of giving to Ireland, which needed them more than any other portion of the three Kingdoms, those educational benefits which Ireland was thoroughly prepared for, must remain practically a dead letter.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR (Manchester, E.) said, he rejoiced that the right hon. Gentleman thought he had devised a scheme by which the long-vexed question centring round the Christian Brothers might be settled in a manner satisfactory to every educational interest in Ireland. At the same time, having listened to the right hon. Gentleman's speech, he must say that he was afraid the right hon. Gentleman did not realise, and his hon. Friend who cheered him did not realise, all that had to be faced in finding that solution. The right hon. Gentleman had ransacked his vocabulary for epithets to express his extreme humiliation at the fact that convent and monastic schools were obliged to conceal their religious emblems during the ordinary school hours. He, however, did not agree that it was a humiliation. He must ask the House to consider what were the special circumstances of Ireland which differentiated that country from England in this respect and made the English experience alone an insufficient precedent for action in Ireland. There would be no difficulty in Ireland if every school were attended by either Protestants or Roman Catholics, or if every district was, as in England, a place where the religious sentiments of the inhabitants were such that a Protestant parent might perfectly safely send his children to a Roman Catholic school without the slightest fear of religious propaganda being involved. He had never been able to satisfy himself that that was the case in Ireland. The question did not arise in either Ulster or the large cities and towns in Ireland; but if they took the case of a very small knot of Protestant families in some remote district in the South or West or South-East of Ireland, where the great bulk of the population was Roman Catholic, and where the whole trend and tenour of public opinion was Roman Catholic, the Protestant children must either go without schooling altogether or attend a Roman Catholic school. If they went to such a school, where the religious emblems were shown during the school hours, could it be maintained that there was no element of what the parents, at all events, would think to be religious propaganda involved in them? It could not be denied that these emblems were shown for a theological and religious purpose. He put it to the House whether, under these circumstances, it was fair to require these Protestant parents in these small Protestant communities to send their children to such a school, to be subjected to influences which were admitted to be specially Roman Catholic in their character. He confessed that he was never able to find a solution of that difficulty. If the right hon. Gentleman had been able to find a solution, and at the same time to bring into the general scheme of Irish education the Christian Brothers, whose ability and services to education he fully recognised, no one would rejoice more heartily than he should. But until some form of protection against that particular danger were devised he did not believe that a solution of the difficulty could be devised in consonance with the general opinion in this country, or with any fair regard to the interests of the parents of the children he had described.

Mr. SEXTON said, that he had listened to the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition with some surprise. He remembered one speech of the right hon. Gentleman in which he expressed something more than hope and desire that he might be able to satisfy the wants of the Irish Roman Catholics in the matter of University education. [Mr. A. J. Balfour: Hear, hear.] Why, then, should he now think this question insoluble?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not believe I have altered my opinion on this question by one hair's breadth.

Mr. SEXTON said, that the argument of the right hon. Gentleman's speech was contrary to the desire which he had expressed. How were they similar? The desire of various creeds to increase the numbers professing those creeds was as real in England as in Ireland. Let them go further and consider where the difference lay. There were Catholic schools all over England in which emblems were exhibited, and he knew from the Minister for Education that no injury was done in those schools to the interests of the Protestant children who attended them.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: The difference is that in England there is no case where there is a small Protestant colony in the midst of a vastly preponderating Catholic population.

Mr. SEXTON said, he should like to know why the right hon. Gentleman should base his argument solely on that? Protestant symbols and texts were exhibited in Protestant schools. The district had nothing to do with the question. It was the influence of the schools that the House was considering.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR pointed out that the whole drift of his speech was that the effect of the emblems in these Catholic schools was to produce an effect which they could not produce where the general training was Protestant.

Mr. SEXTON said, he thought that the right hon. Gentleman had used an exceedingly subtle argument, and one which he, for one, could not follow. He knew of no emblem in a Catholic school which indicated a dogma. He claimed for the Catholic schools in Ireland the liberty that was allowed to Catholic schools in Great Britain. The schools of the Christian Brothers existed only in the cities and towns where the Protestants had schools of their own, and therefore the question of any possible injury to the Protestants did not arise. He had formed the opinion that the Leader of the Opposition had a tolerably open mind on the question, and he asked him, in view of the fact that what he feared existed in England, and that the state of facts which he described had no relation to the question at issue, to reconsider his attitude. It was some drawback to them in Ireland that whatever Party was in power they had always to be ruled by Englishmen, who had to learn the facts of the case under the disadvantage of ignorance of the country. This Government had come into Office on the policy of giving to Ireland the right of legislation and administration of her own affairs, and it was not unreasonable to ask that, though the Government might be baffled and thwarted by the Unionist Party in the House and their Standing Committee in another place in their efforts at legislation, at least in the sphere of administration where their power was effective and final they would remember the fundamental article of their own policy. But he was bound to say that after two years' administration of a Home Rule Government he could discern no practical difference between the administration of the Education Department under the Chief Secretary and what it was under the right hon. Member for East Manchester. He spoke with some feeling on the question of the Christian Brothers' schools. The Irish Members would not have allowed the Education Bill to pass two years ago unless there had been a specific understanding that the schools of the Christian Brothers would be admitted. What was the spectre which the Chief Secretary feared? Whence was the opposition to come? The Tory Party assented to, and the Liberal Party concurred in, the understanding of which he had spoken, and the Act would never come into effectual working unless the schools of the Christian Brothers were admitted. The Tory Party had invited the National Board of Education in Ireland to amend their Rules, and the Board had, not once but twice, suggested Rules for the settlement of the question, but the Chief Secretary had interposed his personal veto and prevented a settlement. He did not believe that if the right hon. Member for Leeds had been in Office he would have rejected the Amendment proposed by the National Board. The majority on the Board included every member of the Catholic Body, with Lord Justice Fitzgibbon and the Senior Fellow of Trinity College, who was the most eminent representative of the Episcopalian Body in Ireland. The opponents of the measure were the least distinguished members, and they represented only a fraction of a sect which was located in only one part of Ireland, having nothing to do with the localities in which the Christian Brothers' schools existed, and which, therefore, must be moved by some kind of feeling which charity forbade him to characterise as it deserved. He trusted that an effort would be made to do this act of justice. The Christian Brothers were the heralds and precursors of elementary education in Ireland; they were the most popular educators of children in Ireland; they were regarded with affection mingled with veneration, and had been the most successful educators in the country. They had declared their willingness to extend the Conscience Clause, which was now at work in their higher schools, to the primary system. They were ready to have their books inspected and their teachers examined, and they were satisfied that their share of the grant should depend upon the efficiency of the secular education given by them. As long as they were excluded from the grant, the Act of 1892 would be a dead letter, and the longer the exclusion lasted the greater would the feeling of injustice and resentment which now prevailed grow in Ireland. He did not, however, care to press this view too strongly on the right hon. Gentleman, because he believed the right hon. Gentleman's sense of justice would induce him to accede to the demand. Where the will existed in a case like this there was no impossibility in finding out the way. Giving the right hon. Gentleman the credit for having the will, he trusted that the way would be found before the beginning of next year.

Mr. Sexton

MR. J. MORLEY: I have no right to speak again on this Resolution, and I only wish to say that it appears to me that the House has had an opportunity of hearing the various points of view from which this very important question may be considered. The right hon. Gentleman opposite (Mr. A. J. Balfour) stated his view at length, and I believe it was not of an irreconcilable character. On the contrary, the right hon. Gentleman spoke in a tone which showed that he appreciates the difficulties, and desires to diminish them. For my part, I have stated that I am not without hope of being able to propose, in effect, a solution which may avoid most of the difficulties which the right hon. Gentleman opposite has indicated, and may meet the views which my hon. Friend opposite has just expressed. That being the case, the House may perhaps now be willing to allow us to take the remainder of the Irish Votes. We shall then propose to postpone the other Votes till we come to the Post Office Votes, and when they are disposed of we shall proceed with the Report of Supply of August 17th.

MR. KNOX said, that after the right hon. Gentleman's statement, though he could not honestly say that he regarded it as quite satisfactory, he would not press the Amendment to a Division. He felt convinced that a Division would not show the real opinion of Members in this matter, as he believed that the vast majority of the Liberal Party, some of whose Members might on the present occasion be disposed to vote for the Government, were in favour of the admission of the Christian Brothers to the grant.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Resolution agreed to.

Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth, and Nineteenth Resolutions agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the subsequent Resolutions to Resolution 51 be further postponed."—(*Sir J. T. Hibbert.*)

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy, &c.) asked whether, in view of the very late Sitting of the previous night, and of the amount of time that would in all probability be necessary to complete the Post

Office Votes, it was intended to seriously ask the House to dispose of the Report of the other Votes at that Sitting? Would it not be possible to adjourn the Report of Supply taken on the 17th of August until to-morrow's Sitting without preventing the realisation of the general desire of the Committee that the House should be prorogued on Saturday? He would suggest that probably, after all, this would facilitate the passage of the Estimates, for it certainly would require some time to discuss the Report, and it would be impossible to have an adequate discussion at 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning.

Mr. J. MORLEY said, the Post Office Vote, if adequately discussed, might take a week. The subject was full of importance, and opened up questions which came home to every one of them. But, as he understood, the points which were to be raised were points which would take a very short time indeed; and when they were disposed of ample time would be left for the consideration and, if necessary, the discussion of the Report of Supply of August 17, in which the hon. Member and others were interested. He would remind his hon. Friend that there were a number of items in the Report that they should go through, and that there was a danger, if the ordinary Report was not disposed of, of running over until next week for the date of the Prorogation. From his recollection of what happened last night, there was an understanding that they should discuss the Report of Supply of the 17th of August and the Post Office Vote. That being so, the hon. Member must feel that the Government were only doing what their pledges required them to do.

Dr. CLARK asked what time the Government proposed to adjourn? Did the right hon. Gentleman propose to go on until 2 o'clock in the morning?

Mr. J. MORLEY did not think that at this moment they could fix the hour for rising. They did not know how long the Post Office Vote would last; but from what he knew of the probable course of the Debate, he did not think it would be long.

Mr. SEXTON said, that neither he nor his friends desired to prolong the discussion on Supply. Their objection last night was not that the time was unduly limited, but that the Government did not proceed with the Orders of the Day. Having heard what had fallen from the right hon. Gentleman, he would be disposed to say that many of them, having said what they had to say about the House of Lords last night, would now be content to take a Division, leaving those hon. Gentlemen who had not had an opportunity of speaking yesterday to express their opinions now.

Motion agreed to.

Resolutions Twenty and Twenty-one, and Thirty-two to Fifty further postponed.

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

Fifty-first Resolution,

> "That a sum, not exceeding £5,287,785, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1895, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Post Office Services, the Expenses of Post Office Savings Banks, and Government Annuities and Insurances, and the Collection of the Post Office Revenue,"

considered.

*__Mr. HENNIKER HEATON__ (Canterbury): I am too sensible of the kindness and consideration extended to me in past years by the House of Commons to trouble hon. Members with a lengthy speech, now that it is past midnight. Before entering upon a detailed criticism of Post Office administration, I am sure the House will like to hear something about the present position of Imperial Penny Postage, which has created so much interest in Parliament and in the country. I am violating no confidence in stating that the Prime Minister is a warm supporter of the scheme, and that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the moment he took Office, expressed himself favourably towards the project, and opened up negotiations with the Postmaster General with the object of carrying it out. This House has itself expressed a unanimous desire for the reform. The Postmaster General in a recent speech made the important declaration that he would be glad to introduce Imperial Penny Postage the moment two obstacles were removed. The first condition was that the finances of the country should be favourable (the amount required being £75,000); and the second, that the assent of the Colonies should be obtained. I am glad to say that the most important

Colonies have already given their assent. The Prime Ministers of Victoria, New Zealand, Canada, and Tasmania have expressed entire and hearty concurrence in the scheme. The remaining Colonies—at least, some of them—only ask that the Postmaster General shall himself open negotiations with them on the subject, as a pledge of his earnestness. I venture now to ask the right hon. Gentleman to do so. The position is exactly like that of two diffident lovers, each waiting a sign or indication from the other. I trust that the Postmaster General, as representing incalculably the stronger and richer party, will take the first step ; and the result will, I am confident, be satisfactory to both. Turning to the administration of the Post Office, I regret to have again to report that a Parcel Post has not yet been established to the United States. I visited America last year, and found that our indefatigable trade rivals, the Germans, had established such a post to that country, and so there can be no insuperable difficulties in the way. I wish the right hon. Gentleman could hear the fervid terms in which men of business express themselves about the failure to provide them with this Parcel Post ; he would be astonished at my moderation. Half the American foreign trade is done with us ; we are their best customers ; American visitors spend £15,000,000 a year in London. We have a Parcel Post to New Guinea and the Coast of Africa, and the Americans have one to various British Colonies ; but the two main branches of the Anglo-Saxon race are denied a privilege conceded to savage Kaffirs, Red Indians, and West Indian negroes. What is it that blocks the way ? And now, to take a purely domestic reform : I was grieved to hear the Postmaster General the other day throwing cold water on the suggestion that a letter-box should be attached to every through train. Does he deny that this would expedite the delivery of correspondence ? Letter in hand, I see an express train about to start ; what reason is there, in the whole armoury of obstruction, why that train should not carry my letter ? He spoke of "practical difficulties." What are they, and who raises them ? Is it the cost of the box ? That could not exceed 1s. 6d. Or would the officials at the town of destination be unduly fluttered and disorganised by such unprecedented promptitude ? Let the Post Office make an effort, and rise to the occasion. A gentleman—Mr. M. J. Sutton, of Kidmore Grange, Caversham—writes to me complaining of an absurd Rule in *The Postal Guide.* The Rule reads as follows :—

> "No letter may be accepted for transmission as a railway letter which either exceeds one ounce in weight, or is addressed to a foreign country, or to a Colony in a British possession."

My correspondent says—

> "Letters to the Press can only be written one side of the paper, and therefore can very seldom travel under one ounce in weight. Surely, four ounces would not be an excessive limit for a rail letter."

Now let us consider a reform deeply affecting our relations with the Colonies. Here is a clear case of official obstruction and perversity. The Australian Postmasters General (whose views on another question were eagerly quoted against me by the right hon. Gentleman) have unanimously requested him to exchange postal orders with them. He refuses on the ground that forgery would take place. Yet a Bank of England note is freely cashed all over Europe ; why could not a uniform postal note be made equally safe by watermark, &c. ? Does he say that the Postmasters General have made a thoughtless and foolish request ? He accepts the voices of three out of seven of them as conclusive about Imperial Penny Postage, yet disregards contemptuously their unanimous request for postal orders. Sometimes a Regulation is utterly uncalled for and vexatious. Thus, why may we paste the address on a postcard, but nothing else ? Suppose a chess problem is to be sent it must go in an envelope, although it would be so easy to paste it on a card. Why is it lawful to paste a slip on one side, and a finable offence to paste it on the other ? What harm is done to the revenue, the officials, or the card by the process ? I produce to the House two of these postcards, on one of which was pasted a chess problem, and on the other the telephone address of the senders. The recipients in each case were fined 1d. It is strange to think how small an obstacle may hinder communication between nations using different stamps and separated by a political frontier. When shall we have an International stamp, which can be sent anywhere to pay for small purchases, newspapers, &c. The United States Government proposed this at Vienna—will the right hon. Gentleman undertake to support the suggestion? The accounts might easily be calculated on an average of years. There is an immense annual increase in the number of postal articles which are refused owing to the new fines for re-direction. With reference to this re-direction nuisance, I beg the Postmaster General no longer to irritate the public, but to restore the privilege of free re-direction for all mail matter within the one postal district. It is a common thing for a postman to bring to a house a re-directed letter and a re-directed newspaper from one office. The former is free and the latter is subject to a fine. I now wish to direct attention to a crying scandal—namely, the arbitrary and unjust Rules requiring a registered newspaper to be published at intervals not exceeding seven days, and to contain a certain proportion of news and articles of a particular character. *The Nineteenth Century*, *The Fortnightly*, and *The New Review*, for instance, have to pay book-post rates, while *The Field* and other larger papers go through the post for ½d. each. Let me next bring under the notice of the Postmaster General the following case of abuse of power:—According to my correspondent, a girl having passed an examination for promotion in a certain post office is informed that, before getting her step, she must satisfy "the local General Post Office dentist," who supplies sets of teeth free from the General Post Office to General Post Office assistants. Now hear the sequel:—My lady informant went with the girl and the doctor to the dentist, who found slight unsoundness in one or two teeth, and the girl was at once informed that she must forego her promotion, or allow 14 teeth to be there and then extracted. The teeth were extracted at one sitting—this torture was enacted in the presence of a medical man, and you can fancy the condition of the victim! The reason given was, "We cannot have girls laid up with toothache." This is the General Post Office specific for toothache, and it is certainly unique. This is so monstrous and so incredible that I feel sure that it needs only to be mentioned in order to be denied. I desire to bring before the House the question of postmen's uniform. I am bound to agree with every word in regard to this subject sent to me by a correspondent. I may premise, however, that my friend the late Postmaster General (Mr. Raikes) used to proudly say that he presided over an army larger and more powerful than that of the Secretary of State for War, or that of the First Lord of the Admiralty. He meant, of course, the Post Office *employés*. Now my correspondent says—

> "The disreputable manner in which these *employés* who wear uniform are permitted to appear in public is brought before us almost every day. They may be seen with uniform coats surmounted by straw hats and other fancy headdresses, coats unbuttoned and any pattern of trousers. Considering that there is a Bill before Parliament intended to uphold the honour of the Queen's uniform, surely it is not unreasonable to expect that those who wear it should honour it. Soldiers, sailors, policemen, and many others would be disgraced by wearing a dress half of uniform and half of plain nondescript clothes. Why should the Post Office servants be allowed a mixture? It is certainly not so in France, Germany, or Italy."

I entirely agree with my correspondent that the uniform is certainly unworthy of our great Postal Service, and I commend the subject to the attention of the Postmaster General. Lastly, I would bring under the notice of the Postmaster General the Resolution I have placed on the Paper for the establishment of a consultative Committee, consisting of leading merchants and others who would see that all complaints and all suggestions for the reform of the Post Office are properly considered, so that the Post Office Officials should not be the makers of Regulations and the administrators of them. In conclusion, I have to compliment the Postmaster General on the many reforms he has carried out during the past year, and I trust that the suggestions I have made will receive his attention.

Mr. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) said, there were only two points to which he desired to refer. The first was a matter to which the attention of the Postmaster General had often been drawn, in regard to which he could scarcely think that faith had been kept with the postmen, whom the matter concerned. He referred to the large number of hours over which the postmen's duties extended, in some cases to as many as 16 hours. A long time ago the Postmaster General promised that steps should be taken to confine those duties within a limit of 12 hours. So long ago as Christmas, 1891, a Petition on this subject was presented to the Postmaster General, and to that Petition a reply was sent that fresh arrangements would be made. Nothing was actually done, and in the summer of 1892 another Petition was presented. Again nothing was done, and in May of this year another Petition was presented, but nothing had been done; and the duties of these men still extended over 16 hours. He thought ample time had elapsed for the necessary correction to be made, and he hoped the matter would receive the immediate attention of the Postmaster General. The other matter he wished to refer to was membership of the proposed District and Parish Councils by Post Office servants; and he thought that Vote ought not to pass without their obtaining from the Postmaster General a more definite statement than had yet been made, because there was no doubt that the action of the Post Office in the matter had caused very considerable misgivings and alarm in the minds of the persons who were immediately affected. The first Circular issued from the Treasury upon this subject undoubtedly laid down that Civil servants should not become candidates for election to District Councils, and therefore at that time the Postmaster General was, no doubt, only doing his duty when, in his Circular, he adopted the language of the Treasury Circular, and stated that Post Office servants would not be competent to become members of District Councils or to offer themselves as candidates. On the 11th of August the Treasury issued a revised Circular, in which they stated that Civil servants were excluded from serving on any District Council the meetings of which were held during hours required for official duty. But, notwithstanding that, although this Circular was issued from the Treasury on the 11th of August, the Postmaster General, issuing his own Circular on the 14th of August, substantially repeated the prohibition which had appeared in the former Circular, which was going far beyond the Minute of the Treasury. They had had a revised Order from the Treasury upon this subject, and according to that, it was to be competent to Civil servants, who first obtained the consent of their superior officer, to become members either of a Parish or District Council, but it was provided that that privilege should be subject to the condition that if in any particular case the duties of the two were found to conflict power must be retained to the head of the Department to require the Civil servant to retire from the Council. That was perfectly legitimate and reasonable, and he had no doubt would meet with the approval of the public. What he wanted to ascertain from the Postmaster General was whether he would give them a definite statement that in the next Circular he issued he would inform Post Office servants on this matter in the words, or, at all events, in the spirit, which was indicated by an answer of the Secretary to the Treasury the other day?

*THE POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. A. MORLEY, Nottingham, E.): I have to thank the hon. Gentleman for his reference to the reforms which the Department has already carried out, though they may not in point of numbers equal his expectations. I think that last year there were 60 reforms which he advocated as measures for our consideration. On the present occasion he has confined himself to 12. With reference to most of these, it is hardly necessary to remind the House that upon matters of expenditure the Department has not a free hand. It has to get the sanction of the Treasury, and from this cause difficulties no doubt do arise in carrying out some reforms which the Department would be glad to see instituted. With respect to one of the subjects to which the hon. Member referred—I mean private postcards—he has stated that the Department has been obstructive; but in regard to that particular question—and the same applies to a large number of other questions—the Department has for a great number of years steadily held the opinion that it would be a great advantage to the public if a change could be made. We think that the public should be able to use private cards of their own by putting stamps upon them. I have seen a Minute of the late Mr. Fawcett in that sense, and I believe that every Postmaster General since has taken the same view. I am very glad we have succeeded at last in carrying through the arrangement, and I must acknowledge the liberal way in which the contractors, Messrs. De La Rue and Co., have met us on the subject.

MR. DISRAELI (Cheshire, Altrincham): Is the right hon. Gentleman going to settle the size of the cards?

*MR. A. MORLEY: Yes. Full particulars on this point will be given in the Regulations. They are now under consideration, and it would be improper to make any statement before they are published, as they will be in due course. As to the question of a parcel post with the United States, communications have been passing through the Foreign Office with the United States, but so far the Government of the Republic have not seen their way to extend to this country the arrangement which we have with almost every civilised country in the world. But I am not without hopes that they may yet be able to meet our wishes. Then the hon. Member for Canterbury mentioned the question of Post Office uniforms. My attention has been called to complaints which have been made about the condition of the uniforms, and I have appointed a small Departmental Committee to look into the question with a view to seeing what reforms can be made. The hon. Member also spoke upon the question of a candidate, who had to have considerable operations carried out upon her teeth before being admitted to an appointment. I quite admit that in the past there has been a very unsatisfactory arrangement with regard to matters of that kind; but I understand that a good condition of teeth is important, both as an indication of what the health of the candidate is, and from the fact that bad teeth may be a cause of bad health in the future. But the manner in which the subject should be dealt with has been looked into carefully, and new Regulations have been in force for some time, so that the difficulty of which the hon. Member has complained is not likely to occur again. I think the Regulations give satisfaction, and that the Department cannot be charged with any harsh treatment in a matter of this kind. I do not think that the other subjects to which the hon. Member referred are subjects which he will expect me to deal with. He has on other occasions presented them before the House, and the views of the Department have been expressed with regard to them. My hon. Friend the Member for Bethnal Green has spoken about the large number of hours over which the duties of some of the postmen are extended, and he spoke of a reform which was promised by a predecessor of mine in connection with the matter. The House will understand what the matter refers to. It is that eight hours' duty are so divided and split up as on the whole to extend, as stated by my hon. Friend, over 16 hours. We are trying, wherever opportunity occurs, to reduce the number of hours over which the eight hours' duty is spread; but it is practically impossible to bring about a change in that matter, excepting where a revision takes place in the establishment of a particular postal locality. In a large number of towns we have introduced reforms, and the hours have been brought within a total limit of 12, and this has been done with no increase of expenditure to the Department, or very little. I am doing all I can to push forward that reform in other districts, and I will look into the case of Hackney. With regard to what the hon. Member has said as to Post Office servants being allowed to become members of Parish and District Councils, we were anxious to get the Regulations out as soon as possible. The Post Office Regulations were issued before the Treasury Minute had reached the Post Office, but I can give the hon. Member the assurance that the new Postal Regulations which will be issued in a day or two will fully carry out the Minute of the Treasury, and will be in accordance with the statement of the Secretary to the Treasury the other day when he answered a question in this House. I have now mentioned most of the matters raised, and I would now ask the House to pass the Vote.

MR. EGERTON ALLEN (Pembroke, &c.) asked if the right hon. Gentleman could give the House any information as to the acceleration of the postal service to South Wales, a subject on which the constituencies were very anxious? The Postmaster General had been good enough to say already that the matter had engaged his attention, and he wanted to know whether it had arrived at a stage at which he would be able to give them some further information?

*MR. A. MORLEY: After protracted negotiations with the Great Western

Railway Company I have made arrangements with the Company by which there will be an acceleration of the mails to the whole of the South-West of Wales, and there will be a later post of an hour and a-half to London. There were also arrangements made by which a new train through the Severn Tunnel would give more rapid communication between South Wales and the South-West of England.

Mr. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy, &c.) asked whether the right hon. Gentleman could give any explanation of the delay which had taken place in respect of the complaints of the servants of the Post Office made some eight or nine months ago? He understood they had had nothing except in the nature of a formal reply, and they were very anxious to know what were the intentions of the Government with regard to their demands. Could the right hon. Gentleman give any explanation of the delay which had taken place, and any hope that the demands would be granted?

*Mr. A. MORLEY said, he could give his hon. Friend an assurance that the delay which had taken place had been unavoidable. The matter had been receiving careful attention, but there had been necessarily much delay, as it was extremely complicated; but he thought that before very long a decision would be arrived at. The Report of the Comptroller of the London Postal Service was sent in on the 31st of July last, and the matter was under consideration in the Secretary's Office, and would have to be presented to the Treasury.

Resolution agreed to.

Fifty-second Resolution agreed to.

Fifty-third Resolution—

"That a sum, not exceeding £1,676,930, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1895, for the Salaries and Working Expenses of the Post Office Telegraph Service,"

considered.

*Mr. HENNIKER HEATON said, it was desirable that every person in this country, whether near to or distant from the great centres of population, should be placed on an equality in regard to postal telegraph communications. He had placed a Resolution on the Paper the object of which was to sweep away these postal guarantees, and he thought it was desirable to do away with them, and to place the people in outside parts of the country on the same level as those in the town. The Postmaster General had been pressed to do away with these guarantees. They were heavy charges, and he trusted the right hon. Gentleman would be able to give them an assurance that night that he would be able to meet the wishes of the people in this respect. He also desired to call attention to the arrangements for telegraphing money. The House were aware that this reform had been established after many years' agitation; but in establishing these telegraph Money Orders the Regulations had been surrounded with so many difficulties that it was now most expensive to telegraph money, and the system was not so popular as it ought to be. He therefore urged the Postmaster General to establish a system of sending money with the telegram to the house of the recipient. If this course were adopted a great deal of trouble would be avoided. He wished to call attention to the high telegraph charges to Paris from London. The charge was 2d. a word. The price of a telegram from London to Ireland and from London to Jersey was only a ½d. a word, and he did not see why they should not be able to send a telegram from London to France for at least 1d. a word. He trusted the Postmaster General would carry out this reform, which he regarded as one of the strongest possible means of encouraging friendly communications between England and France.

*Mr. A. MORLEY said, that during the year 1893-4 there had been 425 new telegraph offices opened at Post Offices, and 248 at railway stations, a total of 673, which was by far the largest number of any recent years. From the 1st of April of this year there had been 246 new offices opened at Post Offices, and 49 at railway stations, or 295 in less than half a year.

Mr. HENNIKER HEATON: With regard to the question of guarantees?

*Mr. A. MORLEY said, that was a matter for the Treasury. With regard to the telegraph money orders, he believed the hon. Gentleman was hardly correct in saying that the system was not popular. The figures would show that the numbers were very largely increasing and that the system was very popular with the public.

Resolution agreed to.

Further Consideration of Postponed Resolutions deferred till To-morrow.

SUPPLY—REPORT.

Resolutions [17th August] reported.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1894-5.

Resolutions read a second time.

First Resolution,

"That a sum, not exceeding £11,564, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1895, for maintaining certain Harbours, Lighthouses, &c., under the Board of Trade,"

considered.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon, &c.) said, he thought the time had now arrived for the Government to postpone the further consideration of Supply. They had a late Sitting last night—they sat from 3 o'clock in the afternoon until 4 o'clock that morning—and they had been sitting now 10 hours, and he submitted they were not in a fit state to consider Report of Supply. They were practically asked to rush through something like £32,000,000 of Supply in the course of 10 hours, and he submitted that that was not a state of things which ought to commend itself to the House of Commons. There was no real reason why the Government should hurry through. If they had had a long Session there might be an excuse for this excessive hurry to bring matters to a determination; but they had had one of the shortest Sessions on record. The time had arrived, in his opinion, for postponing the consideration of these Votes.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. J. MORLEY, Newcastle-upon-Tyne) said, he rather regretted the line his hon. Friend had taken. During the whole of two hours of last night they discussed more or less closely arguments in connection with the Vote for the officers of the House of Lords, and he could not conceive, from his own point of view, what his hon. Friend gained by postponing this Vote. It was clearly understood they were to take that Vote, and so much contention unfortunately arose during the early hours of that morning, on the ground that the Government had not fulfilled, as was alleged, an agreement, that he really must ask the House to go on with the Votes and bring this matter, which had caused so much contention, to a final close.

MR. DALZIEL said, he would strongly appeal to the right hon. Gentleman as to whether he would not consent to what, after all, was a very simple demand. The demand made was simply that the Votes in Class I. up to the House of Lords should be postponed until to-morrow.

MR. J. MORLEY said, that was exactly what they were unwilling to do.

MR. DALZIEL said, they ought not to be asked to discuss the question of the House of Lords at that time of the night. He understood the right hon. Gentleman was prepared to assent to the postponement of the intervening Votes until they arrived at the question of the House of Lords. He differed entirely from the right hon. Gentleman when he said they exhausted the subject that morning, and they left off just where they started. But he based his Motion on the still broader ground that having sat till 4 o'clock the previous morning, having then sat from 3 o'clock in the afternoon continuously till 1 o'clock in the morning, it was really too much of the Government to expect they were going to discuss anything at all after the long Sitting in which they had been engaged. He recognised that anyone who, at this period of the Session, desired to discuss anything at all was regarded, perhaps not unjustly, by a large section of the House as an intruder. They were kept there day after day until a very late hour for the transaction of Government business; they had consented to their own private opportunities being taken away from them to further the Government business; and at the end of the Session, when every Member was looking forward to a holiday, they were asked to sacrifice their remaining opportunities in order to conduce to the general convenience of the House. He considered that having regard to the amount of money that had already been approved of to-night, and to the fact that, after all, they ought still to give some consideration to the questions that arose in Supply, the time had now arrived when the Debate should be adjourned. He, therefore, moved that the Debate be now adjourned.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Debate be now adjourned."—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

Mr. KEARLEY (Devonport) thought the time had arrived when they should make some protest against being kept there. Supply did not receive that amount of consideration and attention it deserved. Although he should be very sorry indeed to put any obstacle in the way of the Government getting on with their business he did say there ought to be some combined effort on the part of Members on all sides of the House to endeavour to see that they had an opportunity of discussing Supply at a proper period of the Session, and in a complete manner. There were in Supply most important questions, probably far more important than much of the legislation they had to deal with from time to time. It had, however, become the practice to induce Members to give up their right to discuss Supply on the Votes, and to ask them to take the discussion on the Report stage. Last night, at midnight, he had possession of the House when the Naval Vote was before them, and he was asked to forego his right of speaking at that stage and allow the Vote to be taken, he being assured that there would be a full opportunity of discussing the question on the Report stage. That day had gone; they had entered upon another day, and here they had a full array of Ministers all dying with anxiety to get hon. Members to abstain from bringing matters forward and to sacrifice their rights. He thought the time had come when they should vigorously protest against this. He had no doubt it would be a serious inconvenience to continue the Sittings of the House for one more day, but he thought the Government would be wise to give way to what was practically the unanimous desire of the House.

Mr. J. MORLEY did not agree that it was practically the unanimous desire of the House that the Debate should be now adjourned. He would point out to his hon. Friend that the complaint made against the Government the previous morning was that at 2 o'clock in the morning they did not take this Vote relating to the House of Lords. It was now the comparatively modest hour of 1 o'clock, and the complaint was that the Government desired to take it up. He would point out that they were not going to discuss the question of a Second Chamber or anything of that kind. There was a discussion the other night, to some extent, upon a particular point raised by his hon. Friends from Ireland. They wished to make a protest—a very just and proper protest—against the action taken in the House of Lords on a particular measure. The gentlemen who were specially concerned had entered that protest, and they did not wish to discuss the general question of the House of Lords on so very narrow an issue. The hon. Member who had last spoken had said that the necessity of Supply being taken at a reasonable period of the Session when there were opportunities for discussion was more important than many of their legislative projects.

Mr. KEARLEY: I said it possibly might be more important.

Mr. J. MORLEY said, he had heard that kind of language during the length of years that he had had the honour of a seat in that House, but he submitted that when they were within two or three days of the Prorogation of Parliament the argument was not a good one on the present occasion, and the Government felt bound to resist the Motion for the Adjournment of the Debate.

Dr. CLARK wanted to know how long the right hon. Gentleman meant to keep them up this morning? Yesterday morning the position was somewhat different to what it was this morning, because the previous morning they had not to meet again until 3 o'clock in the afternoon, whereas to-day they had to meet at 12 o'clock noon, and they had yet got to go home, sleep, and have breakfast. He thought it was only fair, under these circumstances, that they should have time given them to do these things when they were going to meet three hours earlier than they met yesterday. He did not see why they should be kept up any longer, seeing that they were going to do the work to-morrow. If it had been necessary to finish that night he could have understood it, but it was not. They were going to have another day. He did not suppose the Scottish Local Government Bill would take more than two or three hours, and all the rest of the time could be devoted to completing the remainder of the work instead of taking an hour or two at the present time. He thought it was time hon. Members were allowed to go home, seeing that they had to return in the middle of the day.

Question put.

The House divided: — Ayes 39; Noes 83.—(Division List, No. 244.)

Resolution agreed to.

Resolutions Two, Three, Four, and Five postponed.

Sixth Resolution,

"That a sum, not exceeding £22,595, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1895, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices of the House of Lords,"

considered.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Mr. DALZIEL rose to move to reduce the Vote by the sum of £20,000. He regretted that proper time had not been given by the Government to discuss the action the House of Lords had thought proper to pursue with regard to the Evicted Tenants Bill. He pressed the Government to give some definite indication of what their policy was to be with regard to the present form of that Chamber. He could not feel that the Government would be surprised that they were anxious for more light upon this matter. At the very commencement of the present Session, in one of the very earliest pronouncements, this House, by a majority, decided to make a representation to Her Majesty that the power of the House of Lords should be curtailed for reasons which——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Gentleman is not now in Order.

Mr. DALZIEL should not pursue that line of argument further. He was under the impression that this Vote being asked for the House of Lords, they might have upon it based a demand as to what the policy of the Government was to be. However, he would come in a different line towards the same question, and he would ask the Government whether, in view of the action of the House of Lords with regard to the measures which had been passed by a majority of this House, they did not consider in the interests of the Government themselves, in the interests of the House of Commons, and in the interests of the country, that they should at the present time know what their policy was to be in regard to that Chamber? Of course, he did not ask the Government on a great constitutional question such as that undoubtedly was to deal with it in a light-hearted fashion, but he did think, in view of the action of that Chamber, and in view of its absolute uselessness ——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is not in Order. He is not entitled to speak of the other branch of the Legislature in those terms. The Question before the House is the reduction of the Vote for the officers of the other House. The hon. Member consulted me privately, and I told him he was entitled to ask a question as to what the Government proposed to do, but to discuss the policy or action of the House of Lords upon a question of the reduction of the Vote for the salaries of the officers of the House of Lords is, I think, out of Order.

Mr. DALZIEL said, he would simply confine himself to asking the Government whether they could, on the present occasion, now that they were practically at the end of the Session, give them some indication of what their policy in the future was to be with regard to the other Chamber. He did not ask them to pledge themselves to introduce a Bill dealing with the powers of that Assembly. He only asked them two things: In the first place, that they would undertake, during the existence of the present Parliament, and, if possible, during the next Session, to lay upon the Table of the House a Resolution embodying their policy with regard to the matter; and, in the second place, he asked for a declaration—and he thought they were entitled to receive it—that when this Resolution was laid upon the Table they should deal with the question in such a way as to make this Chamber absolutely supreme in all matters of legislation.

Mr. SPEAKER pointed out that it was not necessary to move the reduction, which would be tantamount to opposing the whole Vote.

Mr. WARNER (Somerset, N.), as one who had always been ready to support the Government through their Estimates, could not help expressing the reasons why on this Vote he should support his hon. Friend. It was quite true that this was only a Vote for paying Civil servants. But they were the Civil servants that were employed in the other Chamber, and the discussion that took place last night, and the unfortunate incidents attending it, alone had made it a sort of Vote of Confidence in the other House. If they required any further proof of that it was afforded by the way the Opposition Benches had been filled up by those who were ready to come here to support what had been described that day as the Permanent Committee of the Conservative Party. When a Vote was asked for which had to be supported by the advocates of that Committee, and when the Government were relying upon them, he felt that, as a Radical, one was bound to vote even against a Liberal Government that required such support and were ready to take this Vote in such a way as to make it really one of confidence in the House of Lords.

*__Mr. WEIR__ said, the right hon. Gentleman who was leading the House stated some time ago that the Irish Members had lodged their protest against the House of Lords. So much for the Irish Members. The House had heard the protest of the Irish Celts and also the Welsh Celts, and now he, speaking on behalf of the Celts of the Highlands of Scotland, demanded to know from the Government what they intended to do with the House of Lords, which frustrated the business of the country and prevented the advance of legislation. He hoped to be in the Highlands in a few days, and while there expected to attend a conference of Highlanders from all parts of the mainland and the islands. Those people would naturally wish to know from him what the Government were going to do with the House of Lords. He therefore desired to know from the present Leader of the House (Mr. J. Morley) what action the Government intended to take? He trusted Radical Members would not leave the House without a clear and candid statement from the right hon. Gentleman.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE said, it was due to the supporters of the Government that the Government should give some answer to the appeal made to them by their followers as to what they intended to do with the House of Lords. So far the only answer the supporters of the Government had had on a question that agitated the country—a question in which the Liberal Party of the country took a deep concern—was an arrangement between the two Front Benches by which the Government brought down the Tory Party in a body to vote down their own supporters. It would be a very unsatisfactory thing if the supporters of the Government had to tell their constituents that the only thing the Government had done was to enter into an alliance with the Tory Party to burke discussion on the House of Lords.

Mr. J. MORLEY: My hon. Friend who has just sat down has given a version of the situation which is a long way removed from the truth.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Hear, hear!

Mr. J. MORLEY: There has been no transaction between right hon. Gentlemen opposite and the Government such as he has described.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Hear, hear!

Mr. J. MORLEY: And I cannot conceive upon what facts, or supposed facts, such an allegation is made. It is said the vote about to be taken is a Vote of Confidence or No Confidence in the House of Lords. If that were so, the Members of the Government and our supporters would all be found in the same Lobby; but it is because the Government feel the gravity and magnitude of the question of the House of Lords that we decline to enter on an issue so great on the trumpery question of the salaries of the officials of the House of Lords. If it is raised, as assuredly it will be raised, in the House of Commons—it has already been raised in the country—it must be raised on an issue and on a proposition worthy of the magnitude of the question concerned. That is the position of the Government. As the Chancellor of the Exchequer said last night, we were so alive to the gravity of this question—we know how those who support the Government have this question at heart—that we ought not to be induced to deal with it, or enter on a serious discussion of it on a question of this kind. What my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer said last night I repeat now in regard to dealing with this great constitutional question. The time and the manner of dealing with this great question is a point the Government must settle themselves, and one which we intended to consider and discuss among ourselves during the Recess. Whatever propositions might be the fruit of that consideration, the present was not the time nor the issue on which the question should be raised. Hon. Members below the Gangway will admit that we would be making ourselves ridiculous if upon a Vote of this kind we were to raise, at the fag-end of the Session, within three or four days of the Prorogation, this great constitutional question. I do not think hon. Members below the Gangway are serious. [*Opposition cheers and Radical cries of* "Oh, oh!"] Of course they are absolutely serious in their intention to press this question on the attention of the constituencies and upon Her Majesty's Government, but what I mean to say is that the Government cannot at this time of the Session be expected to bring forward their proposals on one of the gravest constitutional issues ever raised in the history of this country. If there is one Minister on this Bench likely to feel strongly on the action of another place I am that Minister. But I will not press that consideration on the House at this moment. My hon. Friends below the Gangway know perfectly well that the Government are fully alive to the gravity—the pressing gravity—of this question. We do indeed feel the great responsibility of deciding what steps shall be taken in the matter, and I can only assure hon. Members that it is receiving our most careful consideration. So long as in another place they persist in resisting measures dealing with Ireland, they make it an actual and pressing question for the consideration of any Liberal Government—whether this one or any one that may follow. Under these circumstances, I hope my hon. Friends will believe that we have this subject fully before our minds, that we are considering it, and must consider it, because if we did not wish to do so—which is not the case—the feeling of the country binds us to consider it.

Mr. SEXTON said, he hoped the Tory Party who had attended in such phenomenal numbers—phenomenal considering the stage of the Session and the engagements of those hon. Gentlemen elsewhere—would allow the few hon. Members who wished to express their opinions on such an important matter to do so without interruption, or otherwise the Debate must be prolonged. The question at issue was one which excited the passions of Irish Members as well as their interest. It was said in the course of the Debate on the Evicted Tenants' Bill in the House of Lords that that Bill should be rejected because the Irish votes were cast for it. The Bill was an Irish Bill, and it was extremely natural that the Irish votes should be given upon it; and when language of that sort was made the justification for the rejection by the Lords of Bills relating to Ireland, it would be understood why any question relating to the maintenance of the House of Lords should be regarded by the Irish Members as of primary importance. He knew that the existence and functions of the House of Lords could not properly be brought into the present Debate; but he regretted that, considering the length of time that had elapsed since the House of Lords came into direct conflict with the House of Commons upon the main point of policy upon which the Government was put in power, and the urgent pleas of their most ardent and faithful followers in the House who most directly represented the pervading feeling of Liberalism in this country, the right hon. Gentleman and his colleagues had nothing more explicit to say than that they were sensible of the gravity and urgency of the question. He regretted that the Government had not seen their way to define their policy in this matter in some clear and satisfactory way. He thought it was not enough for them to say that they were sensible of the gravity of the question. To say that the Government was not sensible of the gravity of the question would be to say that they were not honest politicians. He regarded them as honest politicians; he believed they were determined as far as men could to carry the policy they meant to pursue into effect; but what he complained of was that they did not engage themselves more directly and more earnestly in the consideration of this great question, and did not give satisfaction to their followers in that House and in the country by informing them in some specific terms at what time they would proceed, and what would be the mode of their action. He thought there was something in the aspect of the House which rendered debate superfluous. The most unskilled observer must be struck by the altered aspect of the House. Last night the Tory Party were substantially absent; last night the Government were determined not to go to a Division on the Vote for the House of Lords because last night they could not rely on the Liberal Party to carry that Vote. To-night, by what means he knew not, except, as was the talk of the Lobbies, it was by a system of broken pairs—a system by which Liberals and Tories paired with each other broke their pairs—so that they might vote for the House of Lords—but whatever the means there was a remarkable attendance of the Tory Party; and the circumstance that the Government took advantage of that attendance of the Tory Party to take the Vote of the House of Lords was a circumstance of such force and significance as to render debate superfluous.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes 76; Noes 45.—(Division List, No. 245.)

Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth Resolutions agreed to.

Resolutions Ten and Eleven postponed.

Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth, and Eighteenth Resolutions agreed to.

Resolutions Nineteen and Twenty postponed.

Postponed Resolutions to be considered To-morrow.

SUPPLY—REPORT.

Resolutions [18th August] reported.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1894-5.

Resolutions read a second time.

First Two Resolutions postponed.

Third, Fourth, and Fifth Resolutions agreed to.

Sixth and Seventh Resolutions postponed.

Eighth Resolution agreed to.

Ninth Resolution postponed.

Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth, and Seventeenth Resolutions agreed to.

Eighteenth Resolution postponed.

Nineteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-first, Twenty-second, Twenty-third, Twenty-fourth, Twenty-fifth, and Twenty-sixth Resolutions agreed to.

Twenty-seventh Resolution postponed.

Twenty-eighth Resolution agreed to.

Twenty-ninth Resolution postponed.

Remaining Resolutions agreed to.

Postponed Resolutions to be considered To-morrow.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS BILL.—(No. 348.)

Lords Amendments to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to. [Special Entry.]

SUPPLY—REPORT.

Resolution [1st June] reported.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1894-5.

CLASS V.

"That a sum, not exceeding £50,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1895, as a Grant in Aid of Expenses connected with Uganda and neighbouring Districts."

Resolution agreed to.

STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES BILL.

On Motion of Mr. Storey, Bill for the appointment of Stipendiary Magistrates in Counties, and to amend the Law as to their appointment in Urban Places and Boroughs, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Storey, Mr. Samuel Evans, Mr. Lloyd-George, Sir Charles Dilke, Mr. Dodd, Mr. Gourley, and Mr. John Wilson.

Bill presented, and read first time. [Bill 361.]

WAYS AND MEANS.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year ended the 31st day of March 1895, the sum of £27,795,151 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."—(*The Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Resolution to be reported To-morrow.

Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th instant, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned at a quarter
after Two o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

Wednesday, 22nd August 1894.

NEW WRITS ISSUED.

For the Borough of Leicester, *v.* James Allanson Picton, esquire, Chiltern Hundreds.

Borough of Leicester, *v.* Sir James Whitehead, baronet, Manor of Northstead.

QUESTIONS.

CHELSEA HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN.

Mr. J. STUART (Shoreditch, Hoxton) asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention had been called to recent allegations respecting the conduct of the medical staff of the Chelsea Hospital for Women; whether it was the case that the whole staff resigned; whether, notwithstanding the Report of a Committee presided over by Lord Cadogan, all except two of the staff had been re-elected; and whether he had any power to order an inquiry into the whole proceedings; and, if so, whether he would order such an inquiry?

The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. George Russell, North Beds.): The Secretary of State has seen the allegations to which my hon. Friend refers, and is fully alive to the gravity of them. I am bound, however, to tell my hon. Friend that the Home Office have some private reason for believing that the allegations made in the newspapers are not correct. If my hon. Friend will communicate with me privately, I will tell him what I know of the matter. In the meantime I have to announce that the Secretary of State has no power to order an inquiry, as suggested in the question.

PAUPER CHILDREN.

Mr. J. STUART asked the President of the Local Government Board whether, in appointing the Committee in respect of the management of pauper children, he would include in the Reference to that Committee the question of placing the educational arrangements in pauper schools, or in pauper schools fulfilling certain conditions, under the inspection of the Education Department?

The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, Bradford, Central): I do not think it will be necessary to make any special mention of this matter, as it will, I believe, come well within the general terms of the Reference to the Committee.

GLASGOW CATHEDRAL.

Mr. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Notts, Mansfield) asked the First Commissioner of Works whether, Glasgow Cathedral being under the control of the Board of Works, any alteration in the structure or fittings could be made without the approval of the Board; whether the alterations lately made or now in progress therein had been so approved; and out of what funds would the cost be defrayed?

The FIRST COMMISSIONER of WORKS (Mr. H. Gladstone, Leeds, W.): It is the rule that any alteration in the structure or fittings of Glasgow Cathedral must receive the approval of the Board of Works. I have not had time to get full necessary information, but I am not aware of any alterations having been made without such approval. The only work of this character carried out lately at the charge of Votes of Parliament is the erection of an internal south porch, which was required much more for the health and comfort of the warders and public generally than of the congregation, and the cost was only about £70. The expense of the recent works in the choir was defrayed, according to the information before me, out of local and private contributions. I am making further inquiries, and will communicate with my hon. Friend.

LIVERPOOL POST OFFICE.

Mr. LAWRENCE (Liverpool, Abercromby) asked the First Commissioner of Works, regarding the contract for the Liverpool Post Office, whether the clause therein making the Government not responsible for the quantities was not an unusual one in works of such magnitude; and whether he would permit the estimate of the quantities to form part of the contract?

Mr. H. GLADSTONE: The advertisement inviting tenders for the new post office at Liverpool notifies, as usual in the case of all new works under the Department, that the Commissioners of Works do not hold themselves responsible for the accuracy of the bills of quantities. The question of making an alteration in the practice of the Department is a very serious one. It is now receiving consideration from the technical officers of the Board, and it shall be decided as soon as possible.

Mr. LAWRENCE asked whether it was the invariable custom of the Board of Works to issue an advertisement on the lines of the present one?

Mr. H. GLADSTONE: Yes, Sir, it is.

THE BRITISH EAST AFRICA COMPANY.

Mr. LAWRENCE asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of his statement a short time ago to the effect that the delay in settling terms of compensation with the British East Africa Company had been due to the difference between the Government and the Company as to what the amount should be, he would state what terms had been proposed by Her Majesty's Government and declined by the Company; whether the Government gave any opinion on the terms offered by the Company on June 23, 1893, and withdrawn on May 8, 1894; and, if no opinion had been expressed by the Government on this proposal, then on what proposal had the difference of opinion arisen which had been alleged by him in the House; and whether the Government had any proposals to make to the Company, and by whom the amount of compensation was to be finally determined?

The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir E. Grey, Northumberland, Berwick): I have nothing to add to what I previously stated in debate on this question. The original hope of the Government was that the Company would negotiate on the subject of the concession. The Company were anxious that in any negotiations the claim in regard to the Charter should be included; but the Government, unfortunately, had reason to suppose that the first estimate of the Company's claim in regard to the Charter was so large that it would be impossible for the Government to make, in respect to it, any proposal which would have any chance of being accepted by the Company.

Mr. LAWRENCE said, that the hon. Gentleman had not really answered the question in any accurate sense, though it had been brought under the notice of the Foreign Office a week ago. He wished to know when he would get a categorical answer to the question?

Sir E. GREY: A word of personal explanation. I was shown this question the other day by the hon. Member; but I have not got verbal memory enough to be able to carry its terms in my mind. I did not see it on the Paper till 2 o'clock this morning, and no time was lost in presenting the question to the other authorities who must be consulted in the matter. I have done my best to get the hon. Gentleman the information. I hope to receive information in the course of to-day, and, so far as a more categorical answer can be expected, it shall be given on Friday.

TIPTON RIFLE RANGE.

Mr. LLOYD (Wednesbury) asked the Secretary of State for War whether he was aware that the bullet that killed Mr. Henn's son on June 9 at Tipton was believed to have been fired by one of the Volunteers of the 1st V.B. Worcestershire Regiment whilst shooting at the range in ordinary practice; whether the War Office had received complaints from Tipton in the year 1892 that the range was unsafe; whether, in consequence of these complaints, the range was at that time closed, inspected, and afterwards pronounced by the War Office to be safe, and was again re-opened; whether the War Office having allowed a rifle range to be used, which they now condemned as unsafe, and which they had now closed, they could allow to Mr. Henn his out-of-pocket expenses in connection with the death of his son if they believed the death was caused by a stray bullet from this rifle range; and whether the closing of the range would be permanent?

*THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. WOODALL, Hanley) (who replied) said : I am aware, from the proceedings of the inquest in this unfortunate case, that the 1st Volunteer Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment were firing at the range when the accident occurred, and presumably the fatal shot was fired by one of the members of that corps. No complaints in regard to this range appear to have been received in the War Office prior to this accident. The range was closed for a time in 1892 by the Local Military Authorities, and again re-opened by them after being examined and pronounced to be safe. With regard to Mr. Henn's claim, I can only refer to the answer given by the Secretary of State on June 18, and that by myself subsequently. As long as existing conditions continue the range will not be re-opened.

MR. LLOYD inquired whether the Local Authorities who closed the range in 1892 were authorised by the War Office to act on their behalf ?

MR. WOODALL: Yes; of course they acted under authority.

MR. LLOYD asked whether, as the Local Authorities were acting under the orders of the War Office, the War Office were not liable for their acts ?

*MR. WOODALL : In a sense, certainly ; but what has been done was done not by the direction of the Commander-in-Chief or the War Office, but on the responsibility of the local officers.

MR. LLOYD asked whether, if the Local Authorities were authorised by the War Office to close the range and then afterwards to re-open it as a safe range, the Volunteers ordered to shoot on the range could object to use it, although it had been sanctioned by the War Office ? If they could not, then could the Volunteers be liable in any way for this accident ?

*MR. WOODALL : I decline to be drawn into a controversy on a point like that. The range, under ordinary circumstances, was fairly safe. The particular accident appears to have occurred through a bullet hitting the roof of a shelter and then ricochetting in an unexpected manner. The incident only goes to show that a range, under such exceptional circumstances, cannot be considered as perfectly safe.

MR. LLOYD asked whether the War Office had really made inquiries into the matter, inasmuch as he was informed that the house in which the unfortunate man lived was covered with bullet marks ?

*MR. WOODALL : I will communicate with the Local Authorities, and will give the hon. Member an answer hereafter.

JABEZ BALFOUR.

MR. COBB (Warwick, S.E., Rugby) asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether it was true, as stated in the newspapers, that the appeal of Jabez Balfour had been dismissed ?

SIR E. GREY : The Foreign Office have had no further information beyond that which I communicated to the House the other day ; and I wish to enter a *caveat* on this occasion as regards the information received at the Foreign Office. So far from the information received by the Foreign Office being a month after time, it has been up to date ; while other information has been a month before the fact.

TRADESMEN'S LICENCES.

MR. COMBE (Surrey, Chertsey) asked the Secretary to the Treasury if tradesmen residing in a district in which they call upon customers for orders are liable to pay the licence of £4 per annum ?

SIR J. T. HIBBERT : I think the hon. Member must be under some misapprehension, as I am informed that there is no such thing as a £4 licence ; but if he will communicate to me or to the Board of Inland Revenue the particulars of the case which he desires to question the matter shall be inquired into.

THE TRANSVAAL.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall) asked the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he would present to Parliament a copy of the Petition with regard to the franchise and commandeering recently presented to Sir Henry Loch in the Transvaal, and signed by 13,000 British subjects there resident ?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. S. BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): Yes, Sir. If desired, I will present the Paper at once.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT asked the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he could now give any information upon one or two points connected with a question which was asked for him on Tuesday by the hon. Member for Preston? The Under Secretary had promised to obtain information from South Africa as to the relative proportions of population in the Transvaal Republic. He wished to know whether the Under Secretary would procure that information under three heads—first, the number of Boer citizens within the Transvaal; secondly, the total number of foreign persons resident in the Transvaal; and, thirdly, the total number of persons of British origin resident in the Transvaal, as distinct from the rest of the foreign population; and whether he would make the information public, through the ordinary channels of communication, as soon as he received it, seeing that the House would not then be sitting. Then as to the right hon. Gentleman's answer yesterday, when he stated that the total European population was 119,000, did he mean to include in that the Boer citizens or the foreign residents only?

MR. S. BUXTON: The figure 119,000, from the Census of 1890, included every one but natives; but that figure is now necessarily very much out of date. The three points on which the hon. Gentleman desires information are just the three points which suggested themselves to me. But the information we obtain cannot be more than approximately correct. As to the publication of the information, I will see about it.

DR. CLARK (Caithness) asked whether it would be possible, except under the Census which was made every 10 years, to give the number of foreigners in England? Were the Boers to be expected to do more in that respect than was possible in this country?

MR. S. BUXTON: Probably the South African Republic will be able to give us the figures approximately as we should be able to give figures approximately.

DR. CLARK: They have no means of getting the information accurately from one Census to another any more than we have.

MR. S. BUXTON: If they have not got the information they cannot give it to us.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT said, that the hon. Gentleman's answer of the other day as to the recent franchise law was not quite clear. Did the law prohibit any foreign residents whose parents had been previously naturalised from obtaining the franchise?

MR. S. BUXTON: I have not yet received the text of the new law; and, indeed, I do not know whether it is absolutely passed yet in all its stages. But, as I understand from the short summary of the Debates which I have seen in the South African papers, the position is this: Children whose parents were not naturalised will be in the same position as new residents, and will have to undergo the same process of naturalisation.

MR. TOMLINSON: Does the hon. Member for Caithness ask these questions as the agent for the Transvaal Republic?

[No answer was given.]

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

BUILDING SOCIETIES (No. 2) BILL. (No. 246.)

Lords' Amendments to be considered forthwith.

MR. HOWELL (Bethnal Green, N.E.): Does the First Commissioner of Works agree to these Amendments?

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. H. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): Yes, I have been carefully through them, and I have shown them to the hon. Members for Stockport and Islington.

Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL.—(No. 337.)

Lords' Amendments considered.

Lords' Amendment proposed, to leave out lines 22 and 23—

"The Board shall comply with any instructions which may be issued by the Secretary for Scotland."

DR. CLARK (Caithness) said, he did not know whether the Government intended to accept all the Lords' Amendments; but perhaps they might have an explanation from the Secretary for Scotland with regard to this Amendment, which was an important one.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Sir G. TREVELYAN, Glasgow, Bridgeton) said, he had taken the very greatest care in the arrangement of Clause 4, in order to carry out what he promised to the House of Commons—that the Local Government Board should be responsible to Parliament. They laid it down on the lines of the English Board, and still more of the Irish Board, and in neither of these cases was any provision of this sort. The Government considered it would be absolutely unnecessary, and not only that, but it might be regarded as somewhat invidious to put these words in when they were reconstituting the Board. At the same time, when the question was raised in the Grand Committee, the Government did not think it essential to refuse to accept the Amendment inserting these words. The Secretary for Scotland would have the same relation to Parliament in respect of the Local Government Bill in Scotland as the Chief Secretary for Ireland had in respect to the Local Government Board in Ireland.

DR. CLARK said, he was strongly in favour of the words in the Bill, but he would not divide against the Lords' Amendment. The Secretary for Scotland would still be responsible in that House for whatever the Local Government Board might do. The right hon. Gentleman, however, with these words struck out, might not be able to direct the action of the Board in Edinburgh, and the Scottish Members were very anxious that in future the Secretary for Scotland should not be able to hide himself behind the Board, but that he should be required to take personal responsibility upon himself.

*__MR. HOZIER__ (Lanarkshire, S.) said, that Lord Tweedmouth, who was in charge of the Bill in the other House, stated that this proviso had probably been inserted by too enthusiastic an admirer of the present Secretary for Scotland.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid) said, that the Amendment was not inserted in the Grand Committee for the purpose of conferring any greater power on the Secretary for Scotland, but of conferring on the Scottish people greater control over the Secretary for Scotland, that he should not have the power to say that this or that was the resolution of the Board, over which he had no control. The object of the words which were inserted was to put on the face of the Statute the fact that the Secretary for Scotland was to be responsible to Parliament for the deliberations and Orders of the Board. He thought that was only right, considering the enormous powers which were given to the Board to make Orders practically superseding legislation. Looking, however, to the fact that they were anxious to have the Bill passed, he would not at that period of the Session divide against the Lords' Amendment.

Lords' Amendment agreed to.

Other Lords' Amendments agreed to:—

Page 2, line 24, leave out ("may"), and insert ("shall").

Page 3, line 20, after ("executed"), insert ("or any action or proceeding raised").

Page 5, line 5, after ("register"), insert ("exclusive of such portions thereof as relate to police burghs").

Line 36, leave out ("register of parish electors"), and insert ("Parish Council register").

Line 42, leave out ("each"), and insert ("such").

Page 7, line 32, leave out ("seven"), and insert ("fourteen").

Amendment in page 8, line 13, leave out ("landward"), the next Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

MR. CALDWELL said, that as the Bill stood if there were an election instituted by a landward parish the expenses would fall solely on that landward parish. The Lords' Amendment would throw the charge upon all the parishes concerned. In the same way, if there was an election rendered necessary by the action of the burgh parish, the Lords would require that the expense should be shared by the landward parish. The elections were different—one held under the County Council, and the other under the Burgh Act, each having a distinct electoral roll. This was not a question of Party politics at all, and people should be encouraged to refrain from having contests, and this encouragement would be given by making the expense fall on that portion of the parish responsible for the election. If the people knew that the expense was to be spread all over the parish they would not have as great an inducement to avoid a contest.

SIR G. TREVELYAN said, the whole of the Amendments on the first page were put down by the Government. This was one. It had reference to the expenditure on the election of Parish Councillors, and its effect would be to divide up that expenditure into such infinitesimally small sums that the cost of making the division would be as much as the relief which would be given to either parish. It was therefore understood, with the goodwill of the Parish Authorities who understood the matter, that it would be well to have the clause as amended by the Lords.

Lords' Amendment agreed to.

Other Lords' Amendments agreed to:—

Page 8, line 14, leave out ("or part of a parish respectively").

Page 9, lines 9 and 10, leave out ("burghal parish or part of a parish respectively") and insert ("parish").

Line 40, after ("Council") insert ("or Town Councillors").

Page 10, line 24, leave out ("on") and insert ("in").

Line 28, leave out ("up").

Page 11, lines 14 and 15, leave out ("and of the chairman thereof").

Line 15, leave out from ("two") to ("can") in line 16, and insert ("or more candidates receive an equal number of votes, being more than").

Line 17, leave out ("a") and insert ("the").

Line 25, leave out ("and") and insert ("or").

Page 12, line 16, leave out from ("reelection") to the end of the sub-section.

Line 20, after the second ("Council") insert ("sitting as a district committee").

Line 23, at the end of the clause, add—

("Provided always that, in the case of parishes partly landward and partly burghal, he shall be appointed by the landward committee from their own number").

Page 13, line 1, leave out ("in") and insert ("for").

Page 19, line 15, after ("Board") insert ("may").

Amendment in Clause 24 (powers of Parish Councils to provide building), striking out the words ("or other public purposes"), and inserting

("and for any purposes connected with parish business, or with the powers or duties of the Parish Council"),

the next Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

DR. CLARK said, this was an Amendment of some importance. This was a change which the Government had themselves stated would restrict the powers and policy of the Parish Councillors. He did not know the exact meaning of the differentiation between the phrase of the Bill and the phrase of the Lords' Amendment, and perhaps the Lord Advocate would tell the House what the limitations of the Amendment amounted to.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. J. B. BALFOUR, Clackmannan, &c.) said, the Government preferred their own words, "or other public purposes"; but in another place it was thought, as it was thought by a good many in the House of Commons, that these words might be too large and wanted some definition. The words inserted by the Lords corresponded with those in the English Act, and he thought they were quite consistent with the Bill.

MR. DALZIEL asked whether, under the Amendment, it would be possible for the public hall to be used for the consideration of such subjects as the establishment of Public Libraries and for meetings of candidates at Parliamentary elections?

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. J. B. BALFOUR) said, as to the first purpose mentioned by his hon. Friend, he considered that the building could be used for it, because the Parish Councils would have powers with respect to Public Libraries. As to the second purpose, it had been pointed out that throughout Scotland school-houses were invariably used for that purpose. There was a doubt at one time whether Board schoolrooms could be used for flower shows, but it was ultimately settled that any purpose which did not interfere with the primary purpose, and for which an elective body such as the School Board might allow the rooms to be used, was lawful.

SIR J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.): This clause has no relation to the use of the buildings. It is a question of providing the buildings.

THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. J. B. BALFOUR): Hear, hear.

MR. CALDWELL said, this was practically the only portion of the Bill which concerned the country districts generally. The object they had in view was to infuse a little activity into parish life, and he thought it was greatly to be regretted that the Government should allow the Bill to be whittled down by accepting the Lords' Amendment.

SIR G. TREVELYAN: Up to this point I do not think the Bill has received any damage, and we have now reached the first matter upon which the majority of the House of Commons and the Government decided against the Amendment which has been inserted by the Lords. I prefer very decidedly the clause as it originally stood, and I am not in the least defending the change made by the Lords, but the Government have to look at this question rather in the large. The Bill at one period in its passage through the Lords gave the Government some anxiety, because there were on the Paper Amendments of a very serious, if not fatal, character. These Amendments, however, were not pressed, and on the Report provisions were introduced in a great many places in a sense satisfactory to the Government and the House of Commons. Hon. Members will observe that absolutely no change whatever has been made in that essential and indispensable framework of the Bill, and the machinery of the Bill as it left the House of Commons has been preserved intact, and will work exactly as the House of Commons wishes it to work. That being the case, the Government had to consider whether in the two or three decidedly important matters which, however, do not absolutely touch the framework of the Bill, it became their duty to disagree with the Lords. At this time of the Session and under the existing conditions, my strong opinion, and that of my colleagues, is that if any Amendment is disagreed with there will be, to say the least of it, the greatest risk that the Bill will be lost, and that is a result which we regard as so important—whether we look to the gain that Scotland will get, or to the pains which have been taken to make the Bill what it is—that I cannot make myself responsible for the loss of the Bill. Up to this time all the Amendments proposed by the Lords can be accepted, and have been accepted, by the Government; and as to those which will follow, there will be two or three which, if hon. Members accept them they will accept with reluctance, a reluctance which is shared by the Government. I trust hon. Members will believe that this action on the part of the Government has been arrived at honestly and after serious consideration, and that I am speaking now under a serious sense of responsibility.

Lords Amendments agreed to.

Amendment, in page 15, to leave out lines 3 and 4, the next Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Sir G. Trevelyan.*)

*MR. SEYMOUR KEAY (Elgin and Nairn): In moving this Motion—namely, that this House disagree—which, if carried, will have the effect of restoring to the Local Government (Scotland) Bill the clause giving Parish Councils power to provide or acquire land for the erection of workmen's dwellings, I desire at the outset to repel an accusation which has been made—to wit, that I and those who support this Motion are endangering the Bill as a whole in any way whatever. I desire to point to a paragraph which has been circulated this morning by the Central News Agency which, I think, accurately describes the position which we take up in the following words :—

> "The course now taken cannot imperil this Bill, which the Lords already passed as a whole on Friday last, and if their Lordships throw out this particular clause a second time they will at the worst merely prolong the Session by a day or two, while at the same time they will supply the electors with a fresh issue against themselves of such a clear and simple nature as will be readily understood by every working man throughout the country."

In offering this Motion for the consideration of the House I am convinced that I shall be able to state nothing less than an overpowering case for the reinstatement in the Bill of the sub-section empowering Parish Councils to provide or acquire land for the erection of workmen's dwellings. I hold that it is no slur whatever on the Government that they did not introduce this power at first into their Bill. They took as their analogy the English Bill without at the moment considering the difference of circumstances between the two countries. It will not be denied that the provision of workmen's dwellings in the rural districts of England is not by any means a burning question to the extent that it is in Scotland. In fact, the Census Returns prove that rural depopulation is not going on in England to anything like the same extent as it is in Scotland. In England there exists no positive conspiracy to depopulate the country districts. But what is the case in Scotland? In the Highlands, in particular, it is the positive policy of the owners of many great estates to use every method in their power in order to get rid of the people from off the soil, and to reduce their villages to silence and desolation. I would commend to the attention of hon. Members a Return presented to the House about two years ago. That Return gives particulars of all the land which has been thrown out of cultivation and turned into deer forest within the last 10 years. It shows that no less than 280,000 acres have been turned into deer forest during that period. The existence of a single workman's cottage on such land as this is deemed by the landlord to be an offence and even a nuisance. And so every such cottage is either purposely allowed to fall into decay, or is razed to the ground. "Oh! but," say those landlords, who believe that they possess rights in the soil without any duties to its inhabitants, "the landlord only turns out the people from cultivating the land when he can get a higher rent from the sporting tenant." Now, Sir, I hold that even this policy, thus declared by landlords, of making it merely a matter of money for themselves whether the land shall be occupied by human beings or by the wild beasts of the field, is a sufficiently brutal policy. But even this, I am sorry to say, does not go the full length of the miserable facts as they exist at this moment. An examination of the same Return will show that no less than 200,000 acres of these deer forests are let to tenants, and the cultivators of the land thrown out, although the landlord actually receives less rent from the sportsman for turning his land into a wilderness than he formerly received from his cultivating tenants and village workmen. These reared their families in comfort on the soil in their hamlets and villages where now no sound, no voice of man, or woman, or child is heard. Sir, it is a mockery to tell the working population of rural Scotland to go to landlords like these, even on their bended knees, and to ask them for a plot of land, on any terms whatever, for the erection of a workman's dwelling. I would point to the woeful results of this policy as shown in the last Census. Its figures demonstrate that in one of the counties which I have the honour to represent—namely, the County of Nairnshire, if allowance is made for the natural increase of the population in Scotland generally, no less than 25 per cent. of what should have been at this day the normal and natural population of the county has disappeared during the last 10 years. And now, Sir, I would briefly sketch what has been the history of this sub-section, providing land for workmen's dwellings. It was carried into the Bill in the Grand Committee on the 3rd of July last by a majority of about 2 to 1. Moreover, that majority comprised every Scottish Liberal Member who was present, except the paid Members of the Government, without one single exception. More than a month passed by, during which it became fully evident that the sub-section had been received with a unanimous chorus of approval by all sections of the Press and people throughout the length and breadth of Scotland. Many congratulatory resolutions were passed by important bodies in Scotland, which were sent not only to myself, but to the other hon. Members who had supported the sub-section. Well, Sir, all this had its natural effect not only on the Government, but on the Opposition also. The Government gallantly resolved to stand by the sub-section. It will also be observed that so popular was it known to be amongst the people of Scotland that no Member of the Opposition who sits for a popular constituency could be found who was willing to move its rejection on Report. The only Member in all Scotland who could be found to do so was one in whose constituency there is not a single working man—namely, the right hon. and learned Gentleman who sits for the Edinburgh and St. Andrews Universities. The right hon. and learned Gentleman went to a Division, and was defeated in this House by a majority of between two and three to one. And, Sir, it is most significant that on that crucial occasion, out of the whole of the 23 Scottish Members who belong to the Opposition, only a diminutive band of eight Members ventured to join the right hon. and learned Gentleman in thus voting against the right of the people of Scotland to live upon her soil. But, Sir, yet another and a most remarkable argument has been meanwhile supplied for retaining the sub-section in the Bill. I refer to the Report which has just been presented by the Select Committee of this House on Feus and Building Leases in Scotland. It was 23 days after this sub-section had been carried into the Bill in the Grand Committee that the Select Committee on Feus and Building Leases met to consider their Report. And I specially ask the House to note that paragraphs 44 to 47 of that Report embody the very same arguments, and urge the granting of the very same powers for providing or acquiring land for the erection of workmen's dwellings, which had been successfully urged in the Grand Committee 23 days before. I will quote from paragraphs 44 and 45—

> "The next question to which the Committee would advert is one which has long excited much interest in various parts of Scotland. It is alleged that there are towns and villages situated upon the property of proprietors who do not desire the extension of the towns or villages, and decline to give land either for building houses or for industrial purposes in their vicinity, either absolutely or on lease, except upon prohibitive terms. The effect of this is said to be not only to prevent the natural expansion of such communities, but to lead to their decay."

And now let the House mark that the remedy for this public evil is propounded by the Select Committee in these remarkable words—paragraphs 46 and 47—

> "The remedy which the Committee would suggest is that the Local Authority, whether Town Council, County Council, or other Elected Body, should be empowered to purchase land by agreement, or compulsorily, for the purposes either of building dwellings for occupation by workmen or other persons, or of otherwise providing for the present or prospective development of the town or village."—"Machinery for the acquisition of land, simpler and less expensive than that prescribed by the Lands Clauses Acts might be provided, as has been done in the Parish Councils Act for England, in the Local Government (Scotland) Bill, and in other Bills now before Parliament."

But, Sir, the most remarkable testimony of all to the value and the urgency of this provision of land for workmen's dwellings consists in the fact that these stringent proposals for the acquisition of land for workmen's dwellings were actually passed into the Report of the Select Committee with the unanimous voice even of the Opposition Members, who had opposed my Motion to the same effect in the Grand Committee. These hon. Members were the Members for Linlithgow, Dumfriesshire, the Western Division of Renfrewshire, the North-Western Division of Lanarkshire, and the Universities of Edinburgh and St. Andrews. Sir, surely in all this there has been shown amply sufficient reason for retaining the sub-section, and it only now remains for me briefly to allude to the action of the House of Lords in regard to it. I have already given ample evidence both of the necessity for the sub-section and of the chorus of approval with which it has been received by the people of Scotland as a whole. Now, on the other hand, who was it who moved and supported its omission in the House of Lords? Its omission was moved and supported by the Marquess of Huntly and Lord Balfour. These two Scottish landlords are, no doubt, very worthy and excellent noblemen, but I do not think that they themselves would go so far as to say that they in any wise can be held to represent the people of Scotland. And what was the number of Peers who went into the Division Lobby against this sub-section, which was fitly described by Lord Tweedmouth as offering a great boon to both workmen and fishermen? Why, only 38 noble Lords; that is actually not so many as form a quorum of this House. And what was the solitary argument which these noblemen in the House of Lords, and the right hon. and learned Gentleman the Member for Edinburgh and St. Andrews Universities (Sir C. Pearson) used, in the House of Lords and in this House respectively, against this sub-section which they moved to strike out? It was this——

Mr. SPEAKER: That is going too minutely into an examination of the Debate in the other House; that is not admissible, though an allusion to it would be.

*Mr. SEYMOUR KEAY: I bow to your ruling, but I wished to say that one argument was used and one alone, and that was the extraordinary one that if the power were retained in the hands of these Parish Councils to acquire land for the purpose of the erection of workmen's dwellings, it might be used by the Parish Councils for the purpose of buying plots of land and selling them to persons desiring to build upon them, until quite a large number of workmen's dwellings might be thus called into existence.

Sir J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.): That was not the only argument.

*Mr. SEYMOUR KEAY: I am only speaking from *The Times* report; there may have been others not reported; but if this was used as an argument, the right hon. Gentleman will admit we are entitled to call not only these noble Lords, but the right hon. and learned Gentleman, into the ranks of the friends and supporters of this sub-section. I ask, could any stronger proof possibly be given of the enormous want of workmen's dwellings which, in the opinion of these gentlemen themselves, exists in Scotland at this moment? If no such want really exists, what earthly inducement could either the Parish Councils have to provide the land, or the builders to build the workmen's dwellings upon it? Therefore, Sir, we are entitled to say that out of their own mouths they are accused of now endeavouring to stop the supply of what they themselves admit to be a great, urgent, and grievous want—namely, the want of houses for workmen desirous of continuing to live upon the soil of their own country. For these overwhelming reasons I have no hesitation whatever in appealing to the Government to stand firmly by this sub-section. And, Sir, I do not believe that, if the Government does this, the other House, on full and careful consideration, will for a moment elect to fly in the face of the wishes of the people of Scotland—seeing that these wishes have been represented, first, by a majority of two to one in the Grand Committee; secondly, by a majority of between two and three to one in this House; and, thirdly, by the unanimous Report in its favour by the Select Committee on Feus and Building Leases in Scotland, whose Report was circulated only a few days ago.

*Mr. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire) said, he wished to make his position in this matter clear. So far as the merits of the sub-section under discussion were concerned, he was at one with the hon. Member for Elgin and Nairn (Mr. Seymour Keay). He supported it in the Grand Committee against the Government; he supported it again upon the Report stage, and upon its merits he was willing to support it again against the Government. So far as the merits of the question were concerned, no demonstration was necessary, because in the Report of the Feus and Leases Committee his right hon. and learned Friend before him, the Lord Advocate, showed in his remarks distinctly how great a benefit would accrue from its adoption, and even some hon. Gentlemen opposite had been converted into ardent apostles of it. But the question really before them was what would happen if the House should adopt the hon. Gentleman's Amendment and reinstate this sub-section in the Bill? From good information he believed what would happen would be simply this: The Amendment would be sent back to another place; they could hardly believe that the Lords would accept it, and a Division would be challenged; if, upon a Division being challenged, there were not 30 Peers present, the Bill would simply drop—[*Cries of* "No, no!"] Hon. Members said "no," but his information was good, and he believed that was actually the case. The hon. Gentleman who had just sat down seemed to think that such a contingency would not be unwelcome, as it would add a certain amount of odium to another place. That might be splendid, but it was not statesmanship. The Bill was of the utmost importance, and not only hon. Gentlemen in this House, but a great many people throughout the country, had been most actively and energetically interested in it, and any Member who took upon himself the position of imperilling the passage of the Bill was taking a grave responsibility. But while he said that, he admitted he had at least learned a lesson to-day. He found that in another place there existed a power which he had not expected; not only might the House of Lords reject their measures or add Amendments; not only might they use the power of battery, but they might use against them the power of siege; that when all else failed they might starve them out. This, perhaps, was not the place or the occasion for discussing the matter, but there was another place where they might discuss it freely, and that was in the country, and he should take care that this new power, at least new to him, should be known throughout the country. He hoped the knowledge of it might tend to increase the steps that might ultimately be taken against the House of Lords.

SIR G. TREVELYAN: In what I am going to say I may ask hon. Members to believe me that the Government, in the course they are taking, are not actuated by the fact that the Amendment was not originally in the Bill, but came from another quarter. For my part, if anything could commend a proposal it would be that it had been started in the Scotch Grand Committee, and the Bill shows very many evidences of that belief on the part of the Government. I will speak very shortly, because I am not going to try to controvert the substance of the speech of my hon. Friend. Ever since I represented a group of small Scotch burghs I have known the cruel manner in which they are often cribbed, cabined, and confined in matters that concerns them most intimately, and I have always held that the Municipal Authority should have the power of acquiring land, just as land is acquired for the purposes of the public in railways, in water, and in sanitation, and for my part I see little difference between acquiring land for sanitary purposes, as they are generally concerned, and acquiring land for the purpose of building healthier streets and houses in the neighbourhood of a town or in a country parish. But as to my hon. Friend's provision, I have always thought it was the assertion of a great principle rather than the carrying out of it into practical effect. The Workmen's Dwellings Act of 1890, which applied to unhealthy quarters of towns, was a whole body of legislation; and though, of course, much of it would not be applicable in carrying out the proposal of my hon. Friend, still a great part of that Act consists of clauses the like of which would have to be put into any Bill for practical purposes. My hon. Friend has referred to the extreme importance and timely Report of the Feus and Building Leases Committee. I I do not know that I can quite endorse what appears to be the tenour of his remarks: that this Report was inspired by the action of the Scotch Grand Committee, especially when I see among the members of the Feus and Building Leases Committee such names as those of the Member for North-East Lanark (Mr. D. Crawford), who has made this and kindred subjects his own for many years, and of the Member for Kirkcaldy (Mr. Dalziel). But it is observable in the paragraphs which my hon. Friend has read out from the Report of the Feus and Building Leases Committee that even in the bald assertion of the principle there are really more methods and machinery laid down than exists in the Bill as at present.

*MR. SEYMOUR KEAY: I do not wish to interrupt the right hon. Gentleman; but as this seems to reflect upon me for having carried an Amendment and not coming forward to provide the proper machinery to carry it out, I desire to remind him——[*Cries of* "No!"] It looks like it; and I would remind him that in the presence of the Solicitor General I asked him timeously whether or not the Government intended to propose any machinery such as the right hon. Gentleman had said was necessary in his speech in the Grand Committee, or whether I should do so; and he, in the presence of the Solicitor General, said that the Government had carefully examined into the Bill, and had found that there would be no further machinery necessary. And, therefore, I held my peace.

SIR G. TREVELYAN: I was not aware that had passed. I think that more machinery would be necessary. I was merely referring to the provisions of the Bill as they stand at present. The Feus and Building Leases Committee made the proposals which my hon. Friend has referred to, in addition to some six or seven others of great importance; and it is impossible that so very pregnant and serious a Report can remain without some result. I am sure I am not going too far or speaking without authority when I say that the Government heartily endorse, speaking broadly, the recommendations of the Committee; and, speaking not broadly, but particularly, that they heartily endorse the particular paragraph quoted by my hon. Friend, and at the earliest period in their power they will embody that Report in a Bill—and that Bill will be an effective and complete machine for carrying out the recommendations of the Committee; and certainly the recommendation which my hon. Friend has put forward. I am sorry if my hon. Friend thinks that anything I said reflected upon him in any way, because I think he has done a great service in this question. But I end by saying I can but repeat my opinion that the rejection of this Amendment of the House of Lords would at this period of the Session very seriously imperil the Bill. I notice that my hon. Friend has used some words doubting whether the other House would allow the Bill to drop.

*MR. SEYMOUR KEAY: I left it to the Government to explain how it could possibly be dropped by any action of the Lords.

SIR G. TREVELYAN: If the Bill went up to the House of Lords, and the clause is opposed, as I have very little doubt it would be opposed, then the Bill itself would drop.

MR. SEYMOUR KEAY: How?

SIR G. TREVELYAN: Of course the Government would not drop it, but if the House of Commons insists upon its Amendment, and the House of Lords insists upon theirs, then the House of Commons must insist a second time. I am not going to play the fool with this Amendment. If the House of Commons supports it now they must support it to the end. I hope hon. Members will endorse it. Then if the House of Lords insists upon their Amendment the Bill would drop, and I see quite plainly that the dropping of this great Bill for Scotland would be too great a price to pay for the House of Commons insisting upon the insertion of the sub-section. That is my opinion and the opinion of the Government; and I believe the danger is very considerably aggravated by the lateness of the time and the very small number of Peers that are now in the other House. I will not, however, enter upon that question, and it is a somewhat hazy one. On these grounds, the Government being heartily in favour of the principle, and thoroughly determined to bring in a Bill which shall embody it, and in good time, I ask the House to support the Government in this matter.

SIR J. FERGUSSON said, he would not have intervened in the Debate but for the statement of the hon. Member for Kincardine (Mr. Crombie), that the Opposition were hostile at first to the Bill, and had only given it a lukewarm support.

*MR. CROMBIE: I only said that the hon. Member for Elgin and Nairn (Mr. Seymour Keay) had proved, or tried to prove, that that was the case in respect to this Amendment.

SIR J. FERGUSSON said, he could only consider it unfortunate that any hon. Member should have been so unfair as to represent that any section of the House had been or was hostile to the Bill. The Secretary for Scotland and Scottish Members would, he believed, generally recognise that a most earnest desire was shown on all sides, and certainly by the Party to which he belonged, to give their best assistance to the Government to carry into effect a measure which was calculated to do a great deal of good in Scotland, and for which there was great occasion. As to the necessity for providing dwellings for workpeople, he had all his life earnestly desired to see the working classes better housed. He had, himself, spent large sums of money in that cause, and he had no sympathy with any who would hinder the provision of sufficient and suitable dwellings for them. The great objection which was urged in the House of Lords to this Amendment was the absence of any machinery to carry the clause into effect; and he would point out that the Committee on Feus and Building Leases, who had just reported, urged the necessity for such machinery. There must be adequate machinery and an adequate controlling authority; and without these the clause would not efficiently work. He must protest against it being said that their opposition to this point showed that they were hostile to a measure to pass which all had given their assistance, and in which he had taken a good deal of interest and an anxious part.

Dr. CLARK (Caithness) thought they could heartily endorse everything that had been said by the right hon. Gentleman who had just spoken; that he had assisted them in making the Bill a useful measure, though on two or three points they had differed. He was not going to say a word as to the merits of this case, as the only question was what they should do at the present time, whether they should allow the Peers an opportunity of reconsidering this matter. The charity Amendment was an important one, but they would be willing to let that and all the other Amendments pass with a protest more or less expressed in words or silently; but upon this one question he really thought that the Government ought to give way to them, and give the Lords a chance of reconsidering the question. This was not a large, but a small, question. The Parish Councils had only got a 6d. rate for carrying out everything provided by the Bill, and if the Parish Council after making a levy should spend the money in land for workmen's dwellings, they would not be able to do anything else. And there was no attack upon the rights of property, because all the powers it was now proposed to give to Parish Councils had been in the possession of District Councils and burghs, and had been carried out with very great advantage. Therefore, the only question was whether the Government would give the Lords a chance to reconsider this one question out of all the questions which had been raised. They were not prepared to wreck the Bill upon the question, but it was one which he thought the Lords might well reconsider. There might be no Division in the other House, and if there was and there were not 30 Peers present, to say that the Bill would be lost was a very serious matter. As a matter of fact, the hon. Member for Kincardine (Mr. Crombie) was mistaken, because if he read the Standing Orders he would find that if there were not 30 Members present when a Division took place that nothing was lost—that the matter was simply put down for the next day. The utmost, therefore, that could happen was the addition of one day or perhaps two days to the Session. He did not want to increase the Session, but the utmost would be that they would require to increase the Session for a single day in order to get a change, but there was no need for that. If the House could accept all the other Amendments, the House of Lords might be able to give way on this question, and it might be settled in the other House without any Division at all. He thought, however, that at present they had a right to urge that the question here involved was one of very great importance for the social well-being of the people, and that the other House should have an opportunity of reconsidering the matter. If they still persisted, this House was powerless. They would take nineteen shillings in the pound, and hope to get the other shilling from the right hon. Gentleman. He trusted they would take a Division right away upon the matter. If the Government did give way, he and others would assist them afterwards upon the other Amendments. They were willing to come to terms with the Government in a spirit of compromise, and he believed that the other House would be willing in the same fashion. At any rate, they ought to give them another chance, hence he would support his hon. Friend in taking the Division, if the Government forced them to have a Division, in order to express their opinion, and to give the Lords a chance.

Mr. CALDWELL said, he thought that the position of the Government was a most unfortunate position. It was not a courageous position. The Government should hold to the opinions of the whole of the Scottish Liberal Members, and should not refuse to give effect to them in the Statute Book merely for fear of what the Lords might do. It was admitted there should be power to acquire land for the erection of dwellings, and there was as much machinery for carrying out that sub-section as for carrying out any other sub-section. The Government agreed to a limit put in by the Opposition to the effect that the powers of the Parish Councils were to be limited to a 6d. rate, and they also provided that money could not be borrowed for any purpose of the clause without the consent of the Local Government Board. The 6d. rate, after certain deductions, was practically only 4d., and it was payable half by the landlord and half by the tenant, so that the Government need not have been afraid of the exercise of the power to acquire land for the erection of working men's dwellings. If they had not got this power really, the Bill was valueless as regarded other matters. He thought it was upon the special power given here that there was much enthusiasm in their country districts. If the Government showed timidity in a matter of this kind, it would produce a very chilling effect throughout the country constituencies. If a Division was challenged, he would certainly vote in favour of the principle, no matter what the issue on the Bill might be.

*Mr. PROVAND said, it was very easy to show that the effect of this clause might be slight indeed, on account of the limited amount of money which the Parish Councils would have at their disposal, not only for this, but for all other purposes. What they had now to consider was the position they would be in if they acted on the suggestion of the Member for Caithness (Dr. Clark). What the hon. Member said in effect was that they should ask the House of Lords to make a compromise. Although they in this House objected to certain Amendments, they would give in on them if the House of Lords would permit them to have this sub-section inserted. If they were to act upon that suggestion, in what an undignified position would the Government stand! The Secretary for Scotland had said distinctly that he would not play the fool with this Bill, and that if the sub-section was insisted upon, the House must continue to insist upon it, and if they did so and the other House would not consent to its reinstatement, the Bill would be dropped. Therefore they came on this point to a deadlock. He had consequently to appeal to his hon. Friend (Dr. Clark) to withdraw from the position he had taken up, as he thought it was one this House ought to occupy. The Secretary for Scotland had told them that at the earliest possible time they would introduce a Bill, not only to include this particular provision, but also all the recommendations, including those read out to-day, from the Report of the Select Committee on Feus and Building Leases. It was questionable if this sub-section, even if it was reinstated, would be of any great practical value, but all doubts would be set aside by the Bill which the right hon. Gentleman, on behalf of the Government, had promised to introduce at the earliest possible moment. He had no doubt that it would be much better to accept the Bill as it now stood and endeavour to pass a far more adequate Bill next Session dealing not only with this subject but with other cognate questions. If the Bill were dropped there would be a feeling of very keen and painful disappointment in Scotland as the result would be to indefinitely postpone the new and permanent system of Local Government which it would establish in Scotland. Under these circumstances, he trusted that his hon. Friend the Member for Caithness (Dr. Clark) would recede from the position he had taken up.

Sir W. WEDDERBURN (Banffshire) wished to press upon the Secretary for Scotland the advice given to him by his hon. Friend the Member for Caithness (Dr. Clark). The right hon. Gentleman had spoken as though the question of workmen's dwellings was only a small matter in comparison with the benefits that would be conferred by the Bill, but he could assure him that in his constituency it was the one provision to which the greatest value was attached. The agricultural workmen among his constituents had sometimes to go miles in order to get to their work, and some of them were actually put to the expense of keeping bicycles to enable them to reach their work in good time. Then there were the fishermen who could not get the smallest bit of ground to build their cottages upon except upon the most extortionate terms. They had to pay £1 a year for the use of land which was not worth a penny. He would appeal to the right hon. Gentleman opposite (Sir J. Fergusson) to use his great influence with the other House in this matter. There were bad landlords as well as good landlords, and all that was asked for was a very small modicum of compulsion to force the bad landlords to do that which good landlords did of their own motion.

*MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.) said, he felt bound to vote in support of the Motion. He did so, first, upon sanitary grounds, upon the ground that some Public Authority ought to have compulsory power to erect healthy dwellings, and, secondly, on constitutional grounds. As he understood the Secretary for Scotland, the House was to accept all the Lords' Amendments because the Members of the House of Lords did not choose to attend at Westminster at that period of the Session. He did not himself believe that the Lords would be so foolish as to absent themselves from the House when an important Bill was brought before them. He was certain that were the House of Lords approached reasonably on the subject they would be willing to give way on one Amendment or another, and that an amicable arrangement might be arrived at.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy, &c.) appealed to the House to let the Government take the responsibility of the vote it was about to give. The present situation was not a new one. The Minister in charge of the Bill, who was naturally anxious to save the results of the labour which had been expended upon the measure, was in consequence of that anxiety prepared to sacrifice that which he himself regarded as one of the most important points in the Bill. It seemed to him (Mr. Dalziel) that no case had been made out for refusing to replace this clause. It was said that the Lords would insist upon the omission of the clause and that the Bill would be lost. His reply was that if the Lords were prepared to take the responsibility of killing the Bill on account of a clause like this which had been accepted by the vast majority of the Scottish Members let them take that responsibility. The House of Commons ought to be guided by what it considered right in the matter. He put it to the Government whether there was the slightest hope that the question would be dealt with next Session if it were not decided now? The Secretary for Scotland knew that there were half-a-dozen Bills of prior claim to that which would embody the recommendations of the Committee in feus and leases. Even if the subject were dealt with next Session no assurance could be given by the Government that the proposal would meet with any better fate than that which had overtaken it on the present occasion. Under the circumstances, he thought the Scottish Members had no option in the matter. Their constituents were unanimous in demanding this clause, which was the one point of the Bill that had aroused great enthusiasm. He himself knew districts where not one single house had been built for 20, 30, or 40 years, simply because the local landlords objected to grant the ground. He thought that whatever course the Government took, the Scottish Members were bound to insist upon the retention of the clause.

SIR W. LAWSON (Cumberland, Cockermouth) said, he supposed it would not be out of Order for an Englishman to take part in a Scotch Debate, and he should like to give an English view of the Scotch situation. What was going on to-day was, in his opinion, a most valuable object-lesson for the whole nation. In the earlier part of the Session, the House took some nine days to settle the question whether there should be a Scotch Committee or not. The Committee was at last appointed, and sat about 17 days on this Bill. Two days were afterwards devoted to Report, and now at the end of the Session it was said that the most important part of the Bill that had occupied so much time, and to which so much labour had been devoted, had been thrown by the Lords out of the window. However, neither the Government nor the 15 Liberal Members who voted with them last night had any right to complain, because they had insisted upon providing the Lords with £20,000 to enable them to carry on the proceedings against which the Scotch Members were now protesting. He was not at all afraid about the Bill being withdrawn if this clause were insisted upon. If it were withdrawn it would be the fault of the Lords; and if the Commons continued to provide money for keeping up the Lords, they were responsible. It would be a very good thing, he thought, if the Scotch as well as the Irish had a lesson on this subject, as it might help to get up the steam and promote the agitation, which he hoped would be successful against the present great obstacle to legislation.

Mr. SEXTON (Kerry, N.) said, that Irishmen took considerable interest in the House of Lords, and he supposed that if an Englishman might state his view on this Bill even an Irish Member might do the same. It was true that Irishmen had fallen out of practice in recent years with reference to the consideration of Lords' Amendments because Irish Bills when they once left the Commons never came back, but this did not absolve them from the duty of considering what course they should take as regarded Lords' Amendments or Bills relating to other parts of the Kingdom. As a Home Ruler he felt bound to consider this Amendment in regard to Scotch opinion as to its merits, and as a Member of the House of Commons he felt bound to consider the circumstances under which the Amendment was necessary. He took it that as the right hon. Gentleman on the Front Opposition Bench had nothing to say against the merits of the Amendment struck out by the Lords there was nothing to be said against them, and a Select Committee of the House containing Representatives of both Parties had unanimously reported that the Amendment ought to be inserted in the Bill. The Grand Committee adopted it by a majority of two to one, and the House as a whole, on the Report of the Bill, confirmed the decision of the Grand Committee by a still larger majority. In regard to the Lords' Amendments, he thought that the Scottish Members had taken up a surprisingly moderate position, because, as he understood, they proposed to accept six pages of Lords' Amendments if the Lords would yield on this Amendment. In view of the manner in which the provision had been carried in the House of Commons, it seemed to him that an occasion had been sought by the House of Lords to give a deliberate challenge to the House of Commons, and that challenge ought to be accepted. As to the argument that the Bill would be lost if this Amendment were persisted in, it was an argument he had heard at the end of every Session for the 14 years he had been in Parliament; and it was only to be regarded as a form of coercion. He did not believe the Bill would be lost if this Amendment were inserted; but if it were lost, let the responsibility rest upon the body of men who sent down to the House of Commons six printed pages of Amendments, and who refused to reconsider even one of them. If this was an Irish Bill, it would in all probability be lost, but it was a Bill which concerned the people of Scotland, who were sturdy in the assertion of their rights, and he did not for a moment expect that if this Amendment was rejected the Bill would be lost. If the opponents of the Bill did not return to the other House to oppose this Amendment, it would be accepted; but if they did return, and if they overbore the quorum commanded by the Government, the Bill would return to this House forthwith, and, with a merely verbal Amendment, it could be sent back to the other House and passed. Both on the merits and as a matter of Parliamentary tactics this House ought to stand by its provisions, and, even if it were again rejected, the Bill could still be saved.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes 62; Noes 31.—(Division List, No. 246.)

Other Lords' Amendments agreed to.

Page 16, line 43, leave out ("if they think proper").

Page 17, line 30, at the end of Sub-section (7) insert—

("Provided always that the Board may, and when required, within the said period of one month, by any party interested who has presented a Memorial against the Order, shall state a special case on the question whether the proposed Order is within the powers conferred by this Act for the opinion of either division of the Court of Session who are hereby authorised finally to determine the same along with any question of expenses").

Line 6, leave out ("sections six and") and insert ("section six and sections").

Amendment, in line 24, after ("compulsory") insert as a new sub-section—

"(c) The Parish Council shall make [and shall jointly with the proprietor maintain] sufficient fences for separating the land taken from the lands not taken.")

the next Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

DR. CLARK said, it was no use taking a Division when they had been beaten by two to one upon the last they took. All they could hope was that by-and-bye some legislation might be passed which would amend the defects in this Bill.

Question put, and agreed to.

Lords' Amendments agreed to:—

Line 40, after ("purchasing") insert ("the whole or any part of").

Page 19, line 2, after ("undertaking") insert—

("or any land which, in the opinion of the County Council or Board is being held, and may be required for the extension of a factory or public work").

Line 31, leave out ("single") and insert ("sole").

Page 20, line 32, after ("barn") insert—

("provided that such stable, byre, or barn shall not, unless erected with the assent in writing of the landlord, be the subject of compensation, but may be removed by the tenant on the determination of the tenancy").

Line 36, leave out ("single") and insert ("sole").

Page 21, line 16, after ("thereunder") insert ("or for feuing or building").

Line 17, after ("winning") insert ("or feuing").

Line 25, leave out ("single") and insert ("sole").

Page 23, line 12, leave out ("but") and insert ("and").

Lines 12 and 13, leave out ("of such roads or ways").

Line 15, leave ("such road or way") and insert ("any such way").

Line 18, after ("them") insert ("as such inhabitants").

Line 35, after ("property") insert—

"as the trustees and the Parish Council may agree upon, or in default of such agreement").

Page 23, line 36, leave out ("when") and insert ("where").

Page 24, line 12, leave out ("when") and insert ("where").

Line 21, after ("shall") insert ("hold office until his successor is appointed, and shall").

Amendment in page 25, line 3, at end of clause, add—

("The provisions of this section with respect to the appointment of trustees shall not apply to any charity until the expiration of 40 years from the date of the foundation thereof, or, in the case of a charity founded before the passing of this Act, by a donor, or by several donors, any one of whom is living at the passing of this Act, until the expiration of 40 years from the passing of this Act, unless with the consent of the surviving donor or donors,")

the next Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

MR. CALDWELL asked, how it was that the Government had been converted on this matter? Had they consented to insert the provision because the House of Lords had insisted upon it?

SIR G. TREVELYAN said, that that was one way of putting it. The hon. Member, who was not responsible for the measure, had put the matter in a most disagreeable manner, and they must accept it. While the Government did not think that this provision was necessary, still it was much better than the similar provision in the English Act. Scotland would now be in a somewhat better position than England, because he would venture to say that the Local Government Board was a more satisfactory body for the purpose than the Charity Commissioners.

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment, in page 26, line 33, leave out from the first ("the") to ("Board") in line 34, the next Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

MR. CALDWELL said, this subject was one on which a Division was taken on a previous occasion in this House, and the Lords Amendment reversed the judgment then arrived at. Did the Government hold to the view they took in the House of Commons, or was this another point that they were conceding for the purpose of carrying the Bill? He thought the people of Scotland should know the price they were paying for the Bill.

Sir G. TREVELYAN said, that this did not raise any great question of principle. In the Bill it was originally proposed that the county auditors should audit the accounts of the Parish Councils. There was a very general feeling in the Committee against this proposal, so strong a feeling, indeed, that it was absolutely necessary to bow to it, and consequently the change was made that the Parish Council should appoint their own auditors, subject to the approval of the Board. He was quite certain that any Secretary for Scotland who knew his business would take care to consult the wishes of the parishes and not override them in this matter. He had known the Sheriff override the wishes of the burghs. He thought this was the right solution.

Sir J. FERGUSSON said, the right hon. Gentleman had said that there was no principle involved in this matter. He was quite sure also that there was no Party question involved. He believed it embodied a real improvement in the Bill.

Dr. CLARK said, he agreed that this was an improvement in the Bill, and he looked at the matter from the financial standpoint. This was an opportunity where the Government might have placed Scotland in the same position as England, and allowed a large portion of the cost of the audit to be defrayed by the Imperial Exchequer.

Question put, and agreed to.

Other Lords Amendments agreed to—

Page 26, line 35, leave out Sub-section (2) and insert new sub-section—

"The Board may, by Order, prescribe Rules modifying the enactments as to the time and place of the audit."

After line 39 insert new sub-section:

"The accounts of a Parish Council shall be transmitted annually by the clerk of the Council as soon as may be after the fifteenth day of May, but not later than the first day of August, to the auditor appointed by the Board."

Page 29, line 9, leave out ("and that failing") and insert ("or unless in the event of").

Line 11, leave out ("consenting") and insert ("refusing such consent").

Page 32, line 7, at the end of the clause add the following sub-section:—

"Upon the formation of a special lighting district under the provisions of this section it shall be lawful for the district committee to adopt the Burghs Gas Supply (Scotland) Act, 1876, and any Act amending the same, but in such case the provisions of the principal Act, with respect to capital, expenditure, borrowing, and audit of accounts, shall apply in lieu of the corresponding provisions of the former Acts or of this section; and in the application of the former Acts the expression 'burgh' shall be construed to mean special lighting district, 'commissioners,' 'town council,' and 'Commissioners of Police,' to mean district committee, and 'elector' and 'ratepayer' to mean a person registered as a county elector the subject of whose qualification is situated within the special lighting district."

Line 17, after ("Scotland") insert ("amendment").

Page 34, line 23, leave out ("eleventh day of December") and insert ("fifteenth day of May in the year").

Line 24, leave out (ninety-four") and insert ("ninety-five").

Line 38, after ("passed") insert—

("Provided that any re-arrangement of the duties and remuneration of existing medical officers holding office under the Poor Law (Scotland) Act, 1845, shall be subject to the approval of the Board").

Page 35, line 2, after ("Council") insert—

("Provided that if any existing Inspector of Poor is aggrieved by such distribution of business, or by the imposition or withdrawal of any duties, he may, within one month after the date of any resolution of the Council distributing such business or imposing or withdrawing such duties, appeal to the Board, whose decision shall be final.")

Page 36, line 9, after ("respectively") insert—

("The expression 'town clerk' includes the clerk to the Burgh Commissioners of a police burgh").

Page 40, after line 25 insert—

52 & 53 Vic. c. 50.	Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889.	Section twenty-eight, sub-section (2), (i), the words "who is not married, or who, being married, is not living in family with her husband."	The Commencement of this Act.
44 Vic. c. 13.	Municipal Elections Amendment (Scotland) Act, 1881.	Section two, the words "who are not married, and married females not living in family with their husbands."	

Page 41, leave out lines 30 to 41.

Page 43, line 15, after ("adopted") insert ("or any bye-law made thereunder").

SUPPLY—REPORT.

Postponed Resolutions [20th August] further considered.

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1894-5.

Fifty-fourth Resolution—

"That a sum, not exceeding £1,402,100, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the expense of Victualling and Clothing for the Navy, including the cost of Victualling Establishments at Home and Abroad, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895,"

considered.

Mr. KEARLEY (Devonport) said, he would like to call attention to the fact that the Marines on board Her Majesty's ships were required to pay for their own white clothing which it was necessary for them to wear at foreign stations. He should be glad to hear that this hardship upon the men would be removed.

*****The SECRETARY to the ADMIRALTY** (Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth, Lancashire, Clitheroe) said, that under a new Rule the practice was to supply each Marine before leaving for a foreign station with two white tunics and two pairs of white drill trousers at the public expense; what he received would doubtless not be sufficient for him for the whole three years of foreign service in a hot climate, and he would have to supplement the supply himself. He should, however, be very happy to confer with his hon. Friend the Member for Devonport, who took such an interest in the Royal Marines, as to any matters connected with their clothing.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolutions Fifty-five to Sixty-one agreed to.

Sixty-second Resolution—

"That a sum, not exceeding £231,200, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Expenses of the Admiralty Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895,"

considered.

Mr. KEARLEY said, that as the House would now shortly adjourn for some considerable time, he should like to call attention to the subject of the manning of the Navy, and press that it should receive somewhat closer attention.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The Navy Vote has been passed.

Mr. KEARLEY: I am speaking of the policy.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is out of Order.

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: Will it be out of Order to ask the Representative of the Admiralty to take all possible steps in order to make up the great deficiency in the *personnel* of the Navy, without going into detail as to manning the Fleet?

Mr. SPEAKER: A question might be asked to that effect, but any detailed or lengthened inquiry into the subject will be out of Order, inasmuch as the Manning

Vote is one of those which have been passed.

Mr. KEARLEY said, he wished to elicit from the representative of the Admiralty some statement on this question, as fears were entertained that the Department was not proceeding as rapidly as might be wished in the matter.

*Sir U. KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH said, that he made a very full statement on this subject at an earlier period of the Session. He could assure the hon. Member that the very large and increased provisions made in this year's Estimates for the manning of the Navy were being given effect to by the Admiralty with the utmost vigour. They had been extremely successful in some of the points. In the Royal Marines, to which his hon. Friend had just now referred, they had been very successful in adding to the number, and the standard had recently been raised. As he had previously told the House, the *Northampton* had been commissioned to enrol boys older than those taken on the training ships, and that also was a very encouraging experiment, for the boys were coming in with great rapidity. Generally speaking, they had made a great advance in the direction required. He might, perhaps, be allowed to add that very exaggerated reports had appeared in the newspapers as to the difficulty alleged to have been experienced in providing men for the ships engaged in the recent Naval Manœuvres. There were, in fact, large numbers of men at the disposal of the Admiralty, especially at Portsmouth and Chatham, and in the embarking section of the coastguard, by whom further ships might have been commissioned. The Admiralty hoped in future years, and indeed even by next year, to be in a much better position than at present.

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT said, he merely wished to emphasise the question put by the hon. Member for Devonport. He believed that great anxiety was felt throughout the country as to the admitted deficiency in the *personnel* of the Navy, and it was generally hoped that the Board of Admiralty would do their utmost during the coming year to supply, so far as they could, that very serious deficiency in the number of officers and men.

Mr. Speaker

Resolution agreed to.

Sixty-third Resolution agreed to.

Sixty-fourth Resolution—

"That a sum, not exceeding £990,400, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Expense of Naval and Marine Pensions, Gratuities, and Compassionate Allowances, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895,"

considered.

Mr. KEARLEY said, he desired to call the attention of the Civil Lord to a case into which he knew the hon. Gentleman had been inquiring—namely, that of a man called Deans, who died a few months since. At 60 years of age Deans became entitled to a gratuity; instead of retiring at the age of 60, when entitled to a week's wages for every year's service, he, at the request of the Government, consented to continue in the service to suit their convenience. Within three months he unfortunately died, and instead of the gratuity being given to his relatives for his 25 years' services, the money had been denied altogether. His hon. Friend had, he believed, looked into the question, and he should like to know what had been done? He desired also to draw the attention of the House to a matter in connection with the Navy, which was a burning question. That was the system under which the wives of naval men were compelled to come monthly to the naval establishments for the purposes of drawing the half-pay allotted to them by their relatives on foreign service. A Committee had inquired into the subject, an overwhelming mass of evidence being given in favour of the change, and none in favour of the continuance of the present system. But notwithstanding this, the old practice was being continued. This practice was very much objected to; the husbands objected to their wives being herded together for two hours in a building eminently unsuitable for the purpose, and they objected to the two miles' walk to and from to draw the money; but the strongest ground was that it tended to immorality. It was stated in evidence that no fewer than 15 bad characters had money allotted to them, perhaps by a few of the worst characters who happened to get into the Navy, and they attended month by month to draw the money so allotted to them. A respectable man, of course, had the strongest possible objection to his wife having to consort with these people even for a single moment. A Petition had been sent in to the Admiralty, signed by the wives of 1,500 Naval men, praying for an alteration of the system, and not one single representation was made or evidence given in favour of the continuance of the present system. What the men wanted was that their wives should be able to draw the money at the post offices. Years ago the pensioners had a similar grievance, but in their case the desired reform was made, and they now received their pensions through the post office. With regard to pensions now paid quarterly, he urged the necessity of paying them monthly. Long before the next quarterly payment became due the pensioner and his family were often in necessitous circumstances, the fact being that when a pensioner got a large sum in his hand at a time he was sometimes tempted into dissipation, with disastrous results. He also desired to call attention to the question of Greenwich pensions; an arrangement had been made whereby men, when they reached the age of 55 years, should have an augmentation of 5d. a day, but in 1878 a limitation in the number of men was effected. Until 1892 strong agitation was carried on against the action of limitation. The result, then, was the appointment of a Select Committee, which made three recommendations. Two had been carried out, with the result that of the 2,800 men who had been deprived, 2,200 were enabled to receive the pensions to which they were entitled. Still 600 men remained, whose cases, he urged, should be dealt with.

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. E. ROBERTSON, Dundee) said, with regard first to the question of the gratuity to the relatives of the man Deans, to which the hon. Gentleman referred, there was a doubt as to the powers of the Admiralty in the matter; it was doubtful whether to give the gratuity was within their powers. He would, however, inquire into the question of the powers of the Admiralty, and if they could they would consider the possibility of making an allowance. With regard to the allotments, he congratulated the hon. Member for Devonport upon being the first to raise the question, and upon the successful result of his efforts, which would undoubtedly be one of the greatest benefits to the families of seamen. The system of paying these allotments to the wives of the seamen by Post Office orders, which they could cash at any time, instead of compelling them to herd in hundreds and thousands at the dockyards, was a change which was approved of by the Admiralty. They were now waiting the sanction of the Treasury with regard to the necessary increase in the staff, but the additional cost would not exceed £480, and he hoped the sanction of the Treasury would be obtained in time for handbills to be sent out next month, and if that were done, the new system would come into operation on October 1. With regard to the question of the payment of pensions monthly instead of quarterly, the hon. Member said that when a pensioner got a comparatively large sum into his hands once a quarter he sometimes got rid of it too soon, with bad results to his family. The Admiralty had been made acquainted with some very painful circumstances of that kind, and he should be very glad to take the suggestion, that the pensions should be paid monthly instead of quarterly, into his consideration and consult his colleagues on the subject. With regard to the question of the Greenwich age pensions, the information of the hon. Member was not correct; the Committee did not recommend that the whole of the men should be considered. They distinguished between them, and made two recommendations, which had been acted upon, at an increase of £22,000 on the Estimates. They made some observations upon a third recommendation, which were being considered. He could promise on behalf of the Admiralty that the whole subject should receive the most careful consideration, but further than that he could not go.

Resolution agreed to.

Sixty-fifth and Sixty-sixth Resolutions agreed to.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1894-5.

CLASS II.

First Resolution—

"That a sum, not exceeding £24,674,* be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of the Registrar General of Births, &c. in England,"

considered.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. SHAW-LEFEVRE, Bradford, Central) said, the House would recollect that on Monday last the hon. Member for the Carnarvon Boroughs raised a Debate with regard to the Registrar General's Report on the Census of 1891 in Wales, and stated that that official had imputed that many of the Welsh people had wilfully made misstatements with the view of increasing the number of those who were returned as speaking the Welsh language only.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said, the Registrar General went further than that, and suggested that the Returns were not reliable.

*MR. SHAW-LEFEVRE said, the hon. Member imputed that the Registrar General, in his Report, had insinuated that the Welsh people had wilfully and purposely, and almost fraudulently, filled up the Returns in a manner which was not consistent with truth. At the time he (Mr. Shaw-Lefevre) said he felt certain that that could not have been the intention of the Registrar General, and that he did not think on the face of the Report that that was the meaning of the paragraphs complained of. He also promised that he would communicate with the Registrar General, and ascertain from him what was his real view of the matter. He had done so, and he had received from the Registrar General a most emphatic statement that he had no intention whatever of imputing that the Welsh people had wilfully and improperly filled up these Returns. All that he intended to convey in his Report was that there had been some misunderstanding as to the requirements of the schedule on the part of the Welsh people in some districts, the result of which was that some of the Returns were not altogether reliable. The hon. Member must not think that this explanation of the Registrar General was made specially in consequence of the Debate of Monday, for he would point out that the present Secretary of State for India (Mr. H. H. Fowler), who was at that time President of the Local Government Board, at the beginning of the year, answering a question on the same subject, put to him by the hon. Member for Oswestry, said—

> "He had no power to direct that a fresh inquiry should be made as to the number of people speaking Welsh, and that the Registrar General had no evidence that any person wilfully and knowingly made false Returns in Wales."

There was an emphatic statement on the part of the Registrar General at that time that the passage to which the hon. Member for the Carnarvon Boroughs referred on Monday did not admit of the meaning which that hon. Member placed upon it. He had to state on the part of the Registrar General that he had no intention whatever of reflecting on the Welsh people in the sense in which the hon. Member complained of. At the same time, he must admit that he thought the language used by the Registrar General might have been more explicit; and having regard to the fact that it had given rise to a feeling of irritation in Wales, he regretted that the language had not made it clear what was really meant. He would, therefore, advise the Registrar General to embody, in a letter to him, an emphatic denial that he intended the passages of his Report complained of to bear the meaning imputed to them, and that he withdrew any expression which would appear to lead in that direction. That letter might be laid before the House in the form of a Parliamentary Paper. It would remain on record, and would be taken in connection with the Report of the Census in any reference in future Debates. There were one or two other points arising out of the Debate of Monday last to which he desired to refer. An hon. Member asked whether there was any foundation whatever for the statement that the Registrar General had communications with the Bishop and clergy of the Established Church in Wales; and to that the Registrar General replied that the only communication of the kind he had had was a telegram from the Bishop of Asaph on the subject yesterday morning. He had also received a communication from Mr. Ritchie with reference to this matter. An hon. Member on Monday night alleged that there had been an admission by Mr. Ritchie of mismanagement on the part of the Registrar General, and Mr. Ritchie wished to dissociate himself from any such admission. He wrote—

> "I see that last night in the House of Commons Mr. J. H. Lewis is reported to have said that I had admitted in the House mismanagement on the part of the Registrar General in connection with the Welsh Census. I wish to dissociate myself from any such charge. It is true that there was some mistake of a very limited kind made in, I think, a very limited area. This I admitted in the House, but I did not admit anything approaching to mismanagement generally in connection with the Welsh Census, and certainly not on the part of the Registrar General, who devoted himself most zealously to secure that the Census should be full and fair; and not once during the many communications I had with him on the subject was it possible to detect the smallest trace of partiality or bias on his part."

MR. HERBERT LEWIS said, that what Mr. Ritchie had admitted was that the supply of forms in the Welsh language was not so great as the demand.

*MR. SHAW-LEFEVRE said, that as to the want of a proper supply of schedules in the Welsh language, there appeared to have been a kind of patriotic movement in Wales to fill up the schedules in the Welsh language to a far greater degree than before, and although 25 per cent. more papers were furnished than in 1881 the supply proved insufficient, but where any difficulty of that kind arose steps were taken to remedy the defect. He hoped hon. Members would be satisfied with the assurance that the Registrar General had no intention whatever to throw any imputation on the Welsh people.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon, &c.) said, that the right hon. Gentleman had simply addressed himself to the imputation made by the Registrar General on the truthfulness of the Welsh people in filling up the Census Returns. He had not addressed himself to the more important point from the Parliamentary point of view of the reliability of the Returns. The Registrar General in his Report said—

> "We do not think that much value can be attached to the figures which are given in our tables."

What did those words mean? Either the Returns were reliable or they were not, and the Registrar ought either to defend his Report or withdraw the imputation on the reliability of the Returns made by the Welsh people. The issue was a perfectly clear one. Census papers were distributed through Wales. In one column of the paper the people were to make a return as to the language they spoke. Surely the people themselves were better judges as to the language they spoke than the Registrar General. The result of the Census was that 500,000 of the people returned themselves as speaking Welsh only, 400,000 as speaking both Welsh and English, and the remainder as English-speaking. Upon what evidence had the Registrar General come to the conclusion that those figures were not correct? Without any evidence, either set forth or indicated in the slightest degree, the Registrar General came to the conclusion that the whole Returns were unreliable. This was not a small matter. If the Registrar General was right in his inference as to those Returns, Parliament could not place the slightest reliance upon any Returns made by the Welsh people in the future as to their habits and customs and language. Several social and political questions would have to be decided on, whether it was or was not true that there were some thousands of people in Wales who did not understand the English language at all. For instance, a short time ago he raised in the House the question of the appointment of a County Court Judge, who could not speak Welsh to a Welsh-speaking district. The reply that was given to him was that this district was not a Welsh-speaking district, and that the people were able to give their evidence clearly in the English tongue. What a valuable Report in refutation of that statement would the Report of the Census of 1891 have been were it not for the unfounded comments of the Registrar General! The fact was, that the Census Returns for Wales had been rendered perfectly worthless by the insinuations which the Registrar General had thought fit to make. He should express his dissatisfaction with the statement of the right hon. Gentleman, and he was determined to take the opinion of this House upon the subject. If the Government had no control over the Registrar General the House had, and he would therefore move a reduction in the Vote on the ground that there was no evidence to justify that official in aspersing the whole of the Welsh Returns. The slur that permanent official had cast upon the Welsh people rendered these Returns valueless for all future purposes, political and social. They must show such men that they could not make false statements with regard to the Welsh people, falsify Returns, and colour Reports with a political object in view, without having the censure of the House of Commons visited upon them. He therefore moved the reduction of the Vote by £100.

Amendment proposed, to leave out "£24,674" in order to insert "£24,574."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Amendment proposed, "That '£24,674' stand part of the Resolution."

MR. EDWARDS (Radnorshire) supported the reduction. He did not understand the English language if the Registrar General did not in his Report deliberately impute inaccuracies in the Welsh Returns, and wrong-doing on the part of the Welsh people. Misrepresentations as to the number of Welsh-speaking people might have important results in connection with the controversy in Wales between the Established Church and the Nonconformists. The great charge that the latter made against the Establishment was that it had failed in its duties because it did not minister to the people in the language of the people. The Registrar General's Report would be relied upon by the friends of the Establishment as a proof that the number of Welsh-speaking people in Wales was greatly exaggerated, and that, therefore, the Church did minister to the people in the language of the people. The misrepresentations in the Report were, therefore, justly resented by the friends of the monoglot Welshman. The Registrar General, who was said not to have cast any imputation upon Welshmen, used these words—

> "Abundant evidence has been received by us that the Returns were either misunderstood or set at nought."

What ground had the Registrar General for saying that? He held that this Report ought to be set aside, and that another Report should be supplied, containing statistics only, and no official imputations or opinions.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint, &c.) hoped that this Report would be withdrawn and an impartial Report substituted for it. In every line of the Report animus and bias were apparent, and the imputations which it contained were so insulting to the Welsh people that their Representatives could not submit to them. It was very important when a Census was taken that an adequate supply of Census papers should be printed in the Welsh language. They earnestly hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give them the reasonable satisfaction for which they asked.

*MAJOR JONES (Carmarthen, &c.) said, that if hon. Members were surprised at the warmth shown by Members from Wales on the question, he would point out that this was not the first time upon which calumnies against the Welsh people had been put into the form of official documents. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman to request the Registrar General either to justify or withdraw his allegations against the Welsh people.

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolutions Two to Thirteen agreed to.

Resolutions Twenty and Twenty-one agreed to.

CLASS V.

Thirty-second Resolution—

> "That a sum, not exceeding £201,235, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1895, for the Expenses of Her Majesty's Embassies and Missions Abroad, and of the Consular Establishments Abroad, and other Expenditure chargeable on the Consular Vote,"

considered.

*SIR C. W. DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean) said, it would be inhuman to detain the House in its present condition for many minutes, and though he felt that observations should at the present period of the Session be reduced to microscopic dimensions, yet there were subjects arising on this Vote which there had been no previous opportunity of mentioning, and which could not be allowed to be passed without being referred to. It was to be regretted that the present practice of the House led to too much time being devoted to the early Votes, and to such Votes as those contained in Class V. passing without remark. It was, of course, possible to raise discussions on subjects falling under Class V. on the Votes on Account, but Votes on Account were always taken in the same order, and from the manner in which Votes on Account were taken in that order too much time was also given to the early Votes and too little to the later. That was highly inconvenient, and was a reason for some change in the Forms of the House in dealing with these matters. In view of the fact that they had come to this period of the Session and the House was weary, he would make his remarks very few. Because the question of Egypt had not been raised this year, it must not be supposed that those who raised the question last year had changed the views which they then expressed. Their views remained as strong as they always had been ; but the matter had not been raised this year, because they thought it had been sufficiently ventilated last year, and no sufficient change had occurred to justify its being again raised. But he wished to draw attention to two or three small matters of another kind. On page 403 of the Estimates there was a Vote of £1,000—a new Vote for the establishment of an International Maritime Bureau at Zanzibar in consequence of our obligations under the Berlin arrangement. He was bound to say that our position at Zanzibar in relation to the Slave Trade was hypocritical. While there was an increase in the money nominally spent on the suppression of the Slave Trade, a great market for slaves was left open by the existence of the legal status of slavery in Zanzibar and Pemba. There was no free labour there, and so long as that condition of things prevailed so long would all attempts to keep down slavery by votes of money be unavailing. He believed that the establishment of a Labour Bureau at Zanzibar was a mere blind to the country, because it was impossible to suppress the Slave Trade unless the legal status of slavery were abolished within our own Protectorate. He hoped that in future years the Uganda Votes would all be brought together. There was a Vote this year for the expenses of the Commission for carrying out the Agreement between Great Britain and France as to a neutral buffer State between their possessions in Indo-China, as to which some documents were presented to the House a few days ago. A great deal of time had passed since the Estimates were framed ; but in spite of the pressure which had been put upon the Government in the matter no meeting of the Commission had been held, and the creation of the buffer State seemed as far off as ever. He should be glad if the Government would give the House some information as to whether anything like this buffer State was to be created. He doubted whether, in the circumstances of the district, it would be possible to establish a satisfactory buffer State. Such a State as Afghanistan would be valuable, but a purely artificial State such as was proposed would not be of the least value. But the Government attached great importance to such a State, and he hoped that they would carry out their own policy. As to the Vote for the escort to the Legation of Japan, such a guard was now wholly unnecessary, and as for unforeseen missions and services, why was double the amount taken this year than was taken last year ?

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT said, the right hon. Baronet had made it appear as if the temporary maintenance of slavery in Zanzibar was the principal cause of that abhorent traffic in the East. He (Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett) would point out that with reference to the Slave Trade the Anti-Slavery Society were of opinion that the best way of suppressing it would be the immediate building of the railway to Uganda. That was also the view of people who were best acquainted with the circumstances of Uganda, and who were impressed with the desirability of doing away with the enormous caravans of porters, for the most part in a state of *quasi*-servitude, who at present had to carry the goods conveyed from the coast to Uganda.

*MAJOR JONES said, there could be no doubt that the Diplomatic Service of this country was decaying and the Consular Service growing and becoming more useful every day. For this reason he desired to appeal to his hon. Friend the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs to do something for Consular officers abroad. It was a fact which reflected discreditably on this country that a great many of our Consular officers not only received no salary whatever and nothing at all against office rent, but were obliged to supply their own stationery and their own postage stamps. He would appeal to the Government to make provision, at any rate, for stationery and postage stamps. A circular might be issued to chief Consular officers authorising them to pay for the stationery and postage stamps of subordinate Consular officers in their various districts. He did not think that was a very exorbitant demand. When we required information as to the products and imports of given districts we had to apply to these officers for it, and surely it would be only reasonable to pay for their stationery and postage stamps.

SIR R. TEMPLE (Surrey, Kingston) said, he hoped a specific reply would be given to the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Forest of Dean. The question was whether the status of slavery existed in Zanzibar, and, if so, what steps the Government were taking to put an end to it? That question must be answered. Her Majesty's Government would have to justify themselves before the civilised world if they allowed this slavery to continue. It had existed, as they all knew, for centuries, and probably it could not be done away with at once, but were the Government taking steps to gradually, if not immediately, abolish it? He was apprehensive that the hon. Baronet would say that we were not administering that country — that the country was not under our control. That, however, would not be accepted by the civilised world outside, and he hoped it would not be accepted by the best and most influential opinion in England. With regard to the Uganda railway, he wished to impress upon the Government that if they had not the resources, financial and otherwise, for undertaking so great a work, they ought at any rate to begin it, and to construct the line from the sea to the first range of hills. That could be done easily and inexpensively.

Major Jones

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir E. GREY, Northumberland, Berwick) said, that he had on previous occasions specifically stated that the status of slavery existed not only in Zanzibar, but in all Mahommedan protectorates in Africa. The universal practice where the Mahommedan law was in existence in British protectorates was that the institutions of the country were as far as possible undisturbed, though political influence outside these protectorates was placed entirely in the hands of the British Government. In Zanzibar there were three regulations, not all new, but which had only lately come under the influence of British officials. One of them was that whenever slaves were treated cruelly by their owners, and the cruelty was proved, they were set free. Another was that the slaves might not be inherited by anyone but the children of their owner, so that if the owner died and left no direct issue his slaves became free. The third was that slaves were not to be imported into the island, and that every man landing after a certain date became free. He believed that people in the status of slavery did not multiply rapidly; that the tendency was for the slave population not to perpetuate itself. That being so, it was obvious that, provided the Rules he had described were strictly enforced, the institution of slavery in Zanzibar must within a comparatively limited number of years die a natural death.

*SIR C. W. DILKE: There is no free labour at all there at the present time.

SIR E. GREY said, he would deal with that point. The Regulations were being strictly enforced, although no doubt in some cases a certain number of slaves, comparatively few, did slip through the meshes of the rules and got into the island. In order that the Regulations might be better enforced they had lately placed a representative in the Island of Pemba. The strict enforcement of the Regulations and the fact that the number of slaves was decreasing must have its effect upon the cultivation of the island. They were receiving more and more complaints as time went on of the difficulty in obtaining labour in Zanzibar, and therefore one of the great problems before them, assuming that it was the duty of the Government to see the Regulations enforced, was the introduction of free paid labour into Zanzibar for the cultivation of the land. Though there were great objections and difficulties to doing away with the status of slavery in Zanzibar, he quite admitted that it was the business of the Government to see that no mere economic considerations should be allowed to obscure and put on one side those large humane principles so deeply felt in this country with regard to the question of slavery. With regard to the Expedition to establish the limits of the buffer State in Siam, it could not be started, owing to climatic reasons, before October. Arrangements were actively in progress between the two Governments with the object of fixing the number of the escorts, the place where they were to meet, and what their programme was to be, and these arrangements had been pushed on in order that the work might be begun during the ensuing autumn. As for unforeseen missions and services the Vote was larger this year than last year, because the Vote for foreseen missions and services was smaller than last year. When the one class of missions was larger than usual it was anticipated that the other class would be smaller, and a sort of average was struck. With regard to what had fallen from the hon. and gallant Gentleman, he could not altogether agree with him. He could endorse the last part of his statement, that the Consular Service was growing in importance, but he could not admit that the Diplomatic Service was less important than previously.

*MAJOR JONES said, that when important International questions were raised special envoys were invariably sent out. He did not say that the gentlemen at present engaged in the Diplomatic Service were less conspicuous for ability than those engaged formerly, but he said that with the telegraph and modern means of communication the Diplomatic Service was waning and the Consular Service growing in importance.

SIR E. GREY said, the two Services were growing in importance together with the growth of the Empire. There were some Consuls paid and some unpaid. No doubt it would be more satisfactory if they not only had more Consuls, but if they paid them; but, after all, the number in the Services must depend on the demand. His own opinion was that whatever money the Treasury could be induced to allow for expending on the local services ought to be devoted rather to the pay of the officials than to any alteration of the existing system.

SIR R. TEMPLE asked whether a person under British protection born of slave parents could be held up as a slave?

SIR E. GREY said, that such a person would be a slave subject to conditions. When the owner died the slaves would not pass to strangers. He assumed that the claims on the fund would be few.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint, &c.) said, that under British protectorate slavery would be an innovation, for it had been abolished by the British Government. The argument that it was necessary to make it an institution of the country might be equally applied in other cases. Another point with which the hon. Baronet had not dealt was the maintenance of a guard at Tokio. That was surely unnecessary at the present day. There was really no more need for a guard in Tokio than in Paris or Vienna. This guard itself proved its own inutility in case of actual disturbances arising, for it was obvious from the Vote that it was an exceedingly small one.

Resolution agreed to.

Thirty-third Resolution—

"That a sum, not exceeding £213, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1895, for Expenses in connection with the Suppression of the Slave Trade, and the Expenses of the Maintenance of certain Liberated Africans,"

considered.

*Sir C. W. DILKE said, this was a very curious item. It had reference to tonnage bounties. For these the charge was double what it usually was, and he must ask the Secretary to the Treasury the reason for it, and whether he could throw any light upon the matter? As Her Majesty's ships had ceased to patrol Madagascar waters, and this Estimate was made in advance, he could not understand why there should be an increase in the sum charged for tonnage bounties on the East Coast of Africa. There used to be a good deal of work done in the Malagasy waters, but that was no longer the case, and he should have thought there would have been a decrease, therefore, instead of an increase in this amount. He should also be glad to hear a statement from the right hon. Gentleman as to the number of Africans relieved.

*The SECRETARY to the TREASURY (Sir J. T. Hibbert, Oldham) said, the increased provision for tonnage bounties was owing to the more numerous demands, which were likely to come in course of payment during the present year. He did not know how long the numbers of Liberated Africans would remain the same; but in going through the Estimates he had drawn attention to the matter, and a sharp eye would be kept upon it.

Sir R. TEMPLE said, a strong opinion existed in this country that the efforts for the suppression of the Slave Trade in what were called foreign waters would continue to be ineffectual so long as the slave markets in the interior were allowed to be supplied. All the expenditure would continue to be non-effective until we took more active measures on land for the suppression of slavery. He hoped this point would be borne in mind in connection with our Protectorate in Uganda. But the first point was that the supplies to those markets were allowed to go on unchecked by Her Majesty's gunboats.

Resolution agreed to.

Thirty-fourth Resolution—

"That a sum, not exceeding £79,675 (including a supplementary sum of £5,750), be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1895, for similar Colonial Services, including Expenses incurred under 'New Pacific Islanders' Protection Act, 1875,' and certain Charges connected with South Africa,"

considered.

*Sir C. W. DILKE said, the chief item in this large amount was in regard to Bechuanaland. He feared that the annual expenditure upon Bechuanaland would soon exceed £100,000, which had been stated as the maximum amount, there being already a deficit of £14,000 or £15,000, while the House could not count upon a less annual expenditure than £200,000 upon the row of posts in Central Africa which were not connected with one another—in Bechuanaland, Nyassaland, and Uganda. He desired to call attention to the matter as, in consequence of the action of Germany and the recent break-down of the Congo Convention, we had now no route through British Central Africa and Uganda to Egypt and the North. The negotiations appeared to have broken down, and there was no prospect of their ultimate success. We were adopting a new forward policy in Central Africa, though he himself was not in favour of it, believing that we had interests on and near the sea of much greater importance. He therefore pointed out that we were increasing our expenditure upon the stations in Central Africa, and there was little prospect that it would ever fall below £200,000 a year.

The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. S. Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said, in reference to Bechuanaland—Nyassaland and Uganda being under the control of the Foreign Office—he hoped that it would be possible not only to reduce the expenditure, but to increase the revenue as the country developed. Two causes were likely to have that effect—the attraction to Matabeleland of a large number of emigrants, who, passing through Bechuanaland, would tend to develop that country, and the extension of the railway. Therefore, he did not share the view of the right hon. Gentleman, but believed that ultimately the British taxpayer might be relieved from burdens in carrying on the administration of that territory.

Resolution agreed to.

Thirty-fifth Resolution agreed to.

Thirty-sixth Resolution—

"That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £45,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1895, as a Grant in Aid of Expenses connected with Uganda and neighbouring Districts,"

considered.

*Sir C. W. DILKE said, a promise had been given to consider the question of compensation to Roman Catholics for damages received during the war in Uganda while Captain Lugard was there. A special officer had been sent out to inquire into the reality and extent of the losses; and though this officer had made a Report, it had not been published. For some reason or other it was not, he believed, thought satisfactory. He did not know what its nature might be, and would be glad to hear what the hon. Gentleman could say as to the claim for compensation, which he believed affected not only French Roman Catholics, but some German subjects, who suffered damage in the fighting at the same time. This question of compensation should be borne in mind when settling the sum to be paid to the British East Africa Company for depriving them of their rights. These damages to Roman Catholics were incurred during the time the Company were holding Uganda, and it was a question whether this country ought to be called upon to pay them, more especially as Captain Lugard reported that in those very operations a large amount of booty was captured by him for the Company which would go a very long way, as he said, to meet the expenses of the war.

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT said, as this was the last opportunity which would be afforded before the House rose of considering the question, he would make a short statement, without going at any length into details, in reference to the necessity of strengthening our position in Uganda and of establishing railway communication with that district. Everyone interested in the extension of our Imperial dominion in Central Africa had long recognised the importance of Uganda. He was much astonished to hear the right hon. Member for the Forest of Dean express himself in doubtful terms as to the enormous value of these vast regions. There had, however, been of late a distinct improvement in the tone of the right hon. Baronet. He now spoke less confidently than before against the value of Uganda. There was a time when people expressed doubt as to the value of our great dominions in Canada, Australia, and the Cape. Yet where would be the wealth and Imperial greatness of England now without those splendid colonies? The natural wealth of Uganda and the districts around it exceeded the natural wealth of almost any country in the world; and it was vital to the existence of our power in those regions that railway communication should be established as speedily as possible with the coast. The value of Uganda to this country, and of the districts near to it, was also to be found in the fact that in that region lay the sources of the Nile. Danger was now likely to arise from the advance of the French, in consequence of the breaking-down of the Anglo-Congo Agreement. Our great rival in those regions was now brought, by the Franco-Congo Treaty of August 14, very much nearer to Uganda and the Nile waterway. Therefore, in order to maintain our position at the sources as well as at the mouth of the Nile we must keep the waterway of that river clear from the control of any other European Power. On this point he would quote a letter to *The Times* of Major Roderic Owen, who had recently taken such a prominent part in Colonel Colville's expedition up the Nile from Uganda, and who from personal experience was well qualified to speak on the point. He commended this sentence in the letter to the attention of the Government—

> "If we intend to remain in Egypt we must hold the Nile from its source to its mouth, and a clearly-defined margin to the west as well as to the east, either by acquisition or delimitation, and that considerably nearer the 25th degree than the 30th degree of east longitude."

But the French had just driven the Congo State back from the 25th to the 30th degree. Both from a military and political point of view, therefore, it was of the utmost importance that a railway should be constructed at once from the coast to the Victoria Nyanza. Although Article III. of the Anglo-Congo Treaty had been cancelled to please Germany, we still have a right of transit across the territory from the Albert Nyanza to Lake Tanganyika. Though we had not the absolute control of the strip of territory between the two lakes, still we had power to make a railroad. This was the very fateful moment for our dominion in Central Africa. Upon the action of the Government within the next few months would depend the future of vast regions, to us of great political importance, of enormous natural wealth, and of great commercial potentiality. The Government, therefore, should adopt all possible means of strengthening our forces in Uganda and constructing as soon as possible a railway from the coast to the Nyanza. Our markets abroad were not too many, and had been shrinking of late years. Foreign tariffs everywhere placed British products at a disadvantage. Competition with our manufacturers in foreign markets was growing keener every day and this great region afforded us a much-required opportunity of extending our trade. The right hon. Member for Birmingham had demonstrated in that House that a railway could be constructed at comparatively small cost for £900,000 as far as Kukuyu, close to the Victoria Nyanza. All that was wanted was a guarantee of less than £30,000 a year for a certain time. That small expenditure would give us speedily a railway which would confer upon England political and commercial predominance in all those regions. At present the cost of transport from Victoria Nyanza to the sea was £300 a ton; a railway would reduce it to £8 a ton, and would do away with the necessity of importing thousands of native porters, who were only slaves in disguise working under their taskmasters. A railway would simply be invaluable to us from a military, political, and commercial point of view as well as being of the greatest importance in checking the nearer advance towards the Nile of our European neighbours. He was glad to see that even Radical Members from North of the Tweed were in favour of a forward policy in this respect. One of the Radical Members for Durham also had pleaded for the construction of a railway. In those circumstances, he hoped Her Majesty's Government would be able to give an assurance of speedy action in the matter, and that they would see their way to grant a subsidy in order that the work of constructing the Uganda railway might be pushed forward without further delay.

SIR E. GREY said, that the claims of the missionaries had already been considered, as the subject formed part of the general discussion between the British and French Governments. He did not think that the circumstances of the case required them to make further inquiries, because to do so would necessitate their going through an immense amount of evidence of what took place, in many cases, a very long time ago. With regard to the construction and maintenance of railways in Uganda, he could only repeat what he had said on Friday last, nor had he any fresh announcement to make, and he, therefore, could only refer the hon. Gentleman to what was said by the Prime Minister on this subject in the House of Lords when the first Vote on Uganda was introduced. As to the universal danger to British interests in Uganda, whatever danger existed it was not only not greater but certainly less than it was some time ago. When the railway scheme was first advocated the recent Anglo-Congo Treaty was not even thought of. Any danger that might arise would be due to difficulties with the natives, and the fact that the strip of land between the two parties was now occupied by the Belgians would materially lessen the chances of friction. As regarded the larger question, it was impossible for him to again refer to the general interests existing between the English and French Governments. He had already given the House his views on that question, and to that statement he had nothing to add.

Resolution agreed to.

Thirty-seventh Resolution—

"That a sum, not exceeding £35,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1895, as a Grant in Aid of Expenses connected with the British Central African Protectorate,"

considered.

*SIR C. W. DILKE said, that it was the first time that the House had been asked to make this grant, and if it had not been for the answer to a question put by him the other night, it would have been necessary to raise a discussion upon it. It had been hoped that this district—a rich planting one—would have paid its own expenses, but considerable wars had been undertaken as to which there were differences of opinion, and an opportunity ought to have been afforded for a Debate earlier in the Session. It was, however, too large a question for him to feel justified in raising a discussion upon it then, as he had given notice earlier in the Session that he intended to do.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolutions Thirty-eight to Fifty agreed to.

SUPPLY—REPORT.

Postponed Resolutions [17th August] further considered.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1894-5.

CLASS I.

Resolutions Two to Five agreed to.

CLASS II.

Tenth Resolution—

"That a sum, not exceeding £40,696, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1895, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,"

considered.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT said, he wished to obtain some information as to the English and French Treaties with the Congo Free State. The Anglo-Congo Treaty had practically disappeared. The French Minister for Foreign Affairs in the French Assembly had, on June 7, openly declared, in a way, he believed, without precedent, that the Anglo-Congo Treaty was null and void. By Article II. of the Franco-Congo Treaty, the Congo State was driven out of its position as a buffer State between us and the French, and it was forced back some 300 miles eastward. At least 12,000 square miles of territory leased to the Congo State by this country under the Treaty of the 12th of May had been resigned by that State. So far as they knew, this great tract of country had fallen back into the position of no man's land, and was quite open to French occupation. The other day, when he tried to elicit some information as to the Western basin of the Nile, the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs stated that Her Majesty's Government were in no sense parties to the Franco-Congo Agreement, and that the territory North of Lado and in the Western watershed of the Nile basin still remained within the sphere of British influence. That was a very important statement indeed, and he hoped that the Government intended to adhere to it. He would not have said one word on this subject had it not been for the recently-issued Siam Blue Book. He recollected with what consideration the Opposition treated the Government last year in acceding to the suggestion that it was contrary to British interests that questions should be put or that information should be given as to the progress of events in Siam. And now 12 months later they read in the Blue Book a deplorable story of aggression on one side, and of weakness and surrender on the other such as they had not seen since the days of the Transvaal capitulation. The story was almost heart-rending as told in the Siam Blue Book. Every fresh advance of the French against Siam was met by retreat and surrender on our side, until the integrity of that country was destroyed, and great inroads made upon its independence. If a similar policy was to be adopted with regard to the Congo, and the French forces allowed to approach the Nile watershed, tremendous injury would be done to our commercial and political interests. He, therefore, asked from the Government a clear statement of their policy. Would they insist upon retaining the western watershed of the Nile within the sphere of British influence? Did they know exactly what the French forces in Central Africa were doing or intended to do? If the Government adopted a firm attitude, well and good. He was asked by the hon. Member for Bradford, on behalf of whom he was speaking. He was speaking for a very large body of persons throughout the country who were interested in the maintenance of our political and commercial control over the Nile waterway. He did not expect the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Central Bradford, who had put that question, to appreciate Imperial or commercial views, for his opinions were purely academic, but the public realised the vast importance of this question. He was quite aware that his speeches had not been received with particular favour by Her Majesty's Government. He never expected the approbation of the present Ministry, but he had never intervened, except when the importance of the subject justified it. They must have a clearly defined boundary placed to the advance of the French forces towards the Nile. He trusted the Government would see that the Western Nile watershed was retained within the sphere of British influence, and kept clear of all foreign encroachment.

Sir E. GREY said he ought, perhaps, to have reserved the latter part of his last speech for this Vote, as he meant it to be taken as a reason why he did not make a detailed statement with regard to the large matters dealt with by the hon. Member. The question the hon. Member asked was in connection with an answer he had given in that House a few days ago. That answer was given with the full authority of Her Majesty's Government. He had no alteration whatever to make. It was not a new announcement; it was founded on decisions arrived at long ago, and he had only to say that they had no intention of abandoning the legitimate claims inherited from their predecessors.

Sir R. TEMPLE agreed that the matter discussed by his hon. Friend the Member for the Ecclesall Division of Sheffield was of first-class Imperial importance. When these questions were raised the Minister responsible usually declared that negotiations were pending and deprecated discussion; but although that might be a good reason for reticence on his part, it was not one for silence on their part. They had listened with satisfaction to the statement that the entire watershed of the Nile was within the sphere of British influence, and he hoped they might assume that the Government were prepared to defend that against all comers. With a declaration to that effect they would be satisfied, but they must be excused for having a little scepticism on the point after the conduct of the Government in regard to Siam—conduct which had been so pathetically depicted by his hon. Friend. Of course, he did not doubt the sincerity of the Government in making the declaration. What he did doubt was their power to make it good. If, as was alleged, the Congo boundary had been pushed up to within 40 or 50 miles of the western bank of the Nile, that meant that, potentially, the French power would come up to that line. What then became of the western watershed of the Nile—about 200 or 300 miles at least—being under British influence? He thought they ought to demand a revision of the Franco-Congo Agreement. When we made a Treaty with the Congo State the French intervened and declared it null and void, and surely we had a similar right to deal with the Agreement they had now entered into with the Congo. It was essential to the just interests of this country that the territorial limit of French influence should be considered. A belt of anything like 40 or 50 miles was quite insufficient. If France were to approach to anything like that distance from our Indian frontier it would be considered a most menacing state of things, so far as British interests were concerned, and therefore they were obliged to urge these things upon the Government, and ask them to bear them in mind. He did not ask for any statement whatever in regard to the negotiations that were pending or for a statement as to any arrangements likely to be entered into with the French Government, but on behalf of British interests he urged that this matter should not be overlooked. The fear that our arrangements with France might prove as futile as our arrangements about Siam compelled Members to urge upon the Government to take whatever course they could to guard against danger.

MR. TOMLINSON said, no Member of the House required any justification for rising to address hon. Members with regard to a matter of first-class importance such as this. They were speaking for thousands and even millions of British subjects who were interested in the maintenance of the markets which it was our interest in Africa to preserve. What was going on now was a contest for commercial supremacy in that part of the world, and he contended that if the main lines of communication in Africa fell into the hands of France or Germany, they would be used for the purpose of excluding British merchandise, and British commercial interests would be placed in serious jeopardy; and, if they were impaired, a starving population at home would require to know why our interests had not been better protected.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolutions Eleven, Nineteen, and Twenty agreed to.

SUPPLY—REPORT.

Postponed Resolutions [18th August] further considered.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1894-5.

CLASS II.

Resolutions One, Two, Six, Seven, Nine, and Eighteen agreed to.

CLASS III.

Twenty-seventh Resolution—

"That a sum, not exceeding £137,117, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1895, for the Expense of the Maintenance of Juvenile Offenders in Reformatory, Industrial, and Day Industrial Schools in Great Britain, and of the Inspectors of Reformatories,"

considered.

MR. H. HOARE said, that, as a member of the Industrial Schools Committee of the London School Board, he had been led to take an interest in the management of our reformatories and industrial schools. It was grotesque to speak of their inmates as criminals; many of the children had committed no crime whatever; they were simply children neglected by their parents. In some cases the parents had tempted their children into criminal ways in order to get rid of the responsibility of bringing them up. Of course, the natural guardians of these children were the last persons in the world who were likely to look after them. The House of Commons stood *in loco parentis* to these children, and it was the duty of the House to treat them as if they were their own children. If it were necessary for the sake of the children that they should be committed to these schools, so be it; but let it be remembered that what was called the education of the streets was by no means as bad as it used to be. He had obtained, by a unique experience, a knowledge of some of the lowest streets of London; and he knew well that the condition of the criminal localities of London was incomparably better than it was 20 or 30 years ago. Therefore, the dangers that neglected children were exposed to were not nearly so great as they had been in times past. Where there was real danger he admitted that the best course was to commit children to one of these industrial schools. The obligation rested upon Parliament to see that the children who were committed to industrial schools were made as happy as they could be while they were there. If these children had votes they would not be neglected as they had been by that House. In many schools year by year the children had to drag out a monotonous existence without a single holiday. For his part, he would rather be in a prison or an asylum than be in the worst industrial schools of England for 10 years without a holiday. He defied anyone to discover from the official Reports of Colonel Ingliss whether in the opinion of the Inspectors a school was a good, or a tolerable, or a bad school. An hon. Member had asked a question in the House with regard to St. John's Industrial School at Walthamstow. He had read the Report upon that school, but there was nothing in it to open anybody's eyes as to whether the charges made with regard to that school were true or false. He wanted to see the children classified according to age, the mere children being sent to one school, the younger boys to another, and the elder boys to a third. In the next place, there ought to be more Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors. And, in the third place, he wished to see the schools classified according to merit.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GEORGE RUSSELL, North Beds.) said, no doubt everyone would sympathise, as he did himself, with the spirit which animated the remarks of his hon. Friend, and recognise the personal attention he had given to the subject. The hon. Member had spoken to willing ears. During the time he had been at the Home Office he had taken much interest in the industrial schools, and as far as the Metropolitan area was concerned he had been at great pains to investigate personally the state of the schools and the condition of the children attending them. It was obvious, even from a superficial inspection, that the standard of comfort, efficiency, and discipline, and the general moral tone was entirely different as between one school and another. He recognised that it was to the advantage of everybody concerned that his hon. Friend should have thought it worth while to bring the subject forward, and he should be glad to co-operate with his hon. Friend in any considered schemes of reform which it might be necessary or desirable to adopt.

Resolution agreed to.

Twenty-ninth Resolution agreed to.

RAILWAY AND CANAL TRAFFIC BILL.

(No. 356.)

Lords Amendment to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Resolution [21st August] reported;

"That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year ending the 31st day of March 1895, the sum of £27,795,151 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."

Resolution agreed to:—Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Mellor, The Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Sir John Hibbert.

Ordered, That leave be given to bring in a Bill to apply a sum, out of the Consolidated Fund, to the Service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, and to appropriate the Supplies granted in this Session of Parliament.

Bill presented, and read first time.

MARRIAGE LAWS (UNITED KINGDOM).

Return presented,—relative thereto [Address 24th July; *Mr. George Russell*]; to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAY SERVANTS (HOURS OF LABOUR).

Copy presented,—of Report by the Board of Trade respecting the proceedings of the Board of Trade under The Railway Regulation Act, 1893, 56 & 57 Vic., c. 29, during the year ended 27th July 1894 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 320.]

NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Copy presented,—of Appendix to the Sixtieth Report of the Commissioners for 1893 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES (ENGLAND).

Copy presented, — of Fifty-sixth Annual Report of the Registrar General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in England [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

FISHERY BOARD (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented,—of Twelfth Annual Report of the Fishery Board for 1893 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS (KEW, PETERSHAM, AND RICHMOND).

Return relative thereto [ordered 18th August; *Mr. Francis Stevenson*]; to be printed. [No. 321].

Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th instant, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned at half after Six o'clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS,

Thursday, 23rd August 1894.

JUDICIAL BUSINESS.

Ordered, That this House do meet on Tuesday the 13th day of November next for the purpose of hearing and determining Appeals and matters connected therewith, pursuant to the provisions of the "Appellate Jurisdiction Act, 1876"; and that during such meeting of the House leave be given to the Appeal Committee to meet.

RAILWAY AND CANAL TRAFFIC BILL.

(No. 218.)

Returned from the Commons with the Amendment agreed to.

BUILDING SOCIETIES (No. 2) BILL.

(No. 222.)

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL.—(No. 212.)

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to, with an Amendment.

Commons Amendment to Lords Amendments considered (on Motion), and agreed to.

House adjourned at a quarter past Four o'clock, to Saturday next, a quarter past Nine o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

Thursday, 23rd August 1894.

QUESTIONS.

THE MALA REAL PORTUGUEZA COMPANY.

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether it is the case that the Mala Real Portugueza Company, which became bankrupt about a year ago, while it has been settling local claims on the bankrupt estate, refuses to pay the sum of several hundreds of pounds due to the staff of British engineers employed on the steamers of the Company both before the failure and since; and whether Her Majesty's Government can do anything to help these engineers to recover the sum due to them?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir E. GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): The Report just received from Her Majesty's Minister at Lisbon is substantially in accordance with the facts stated in the question. The Minister has been endeavouring to get the claim settled, and will continue to do so.

SEIZURE OF FRAUDULENTLY MARKED CHISELS AT LEITH.

COLONEL HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if the recent seizure at Leith of 6,000 German chisels, falsely marked with English wording and as Sheffield made, was under the 16th section of The Merchandise Marks Act, 1887, and duly reported to the Board of Trade, to whom the duty of prosecuting under it has been expressly confided by Parliament; why no proceedings were instituted, and if it is too late to repair the omission; if the Customs Authorities at all ports will be directed to search very strictly all consignments from and to the same parties for similar contraband; and if, in directing the sale for £25 on Government account of a large line of contraband foreign edge-tools, he considered the effect on the operatives in Sheffield, the placing among whom of such an order would have set £112 10s. into industrial circulation?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.): The seizure by the Customs at Leith was not reported to the Board of Trade. Section 16 of the Act referred to assigns the duty of dealing with imported goods to the Commissioners of Customs only. Seizure was the appropriate penalty, and it was applied; no other proceedings were possible in the present case. The directions given by the Board of Customs as to search were effective in this case, and I know of no reason why their officers should be directed to be more vigilant. With regard to the last paragraph of the hon. and gallant Member's question, I must point out that foreign-made goods are not prohibited from being sold in this country on account of their origin unless they are illegally marked. Illegal marks are always removed prior to the sale of seized goods. The Board of Trade did not direct the sale of these chisels; they were sold by order of the Commissioners of Customs.

COLONEL HOWARD VINCENT: As the right hon. Gentleman is responsible for the administration of the Merchandise Marks Act, will he communicate with the Board of Customs and arrange that any future seizures of a similar nature shall at once be notified to the Board of Trade?

MR. CREMER (Shoreditch, Haggerston): What became of the chisels?

MR. BRYCE: They were seized and sold by the Inspectors of Customs in the market. The administration of the Merchandise Marks Act is only in the hands of the Board of Trade in so far as statutory provisions put it in their hands.

COLONEL HOWARD VINCENT: Is it not a fact that prosecutions for offences under the Act have been specially intrusted to the Board of Trade? Will the right hon. Gentleman give the name of the importer of these fraudulent goods?

MR. CREMER: Is it the case that these chisels were sold in the English and Scotch markets; and are they being re-sold to British workmen with the brand of Sheffield manufacture upon them; are not the chisels so branded at the present time being purchased and used by British workmen under the false impression that these are British-made goods; and is the Merchandise Marks Act capable of being interpreted so as to permit such a state of things?

MR. BRYCE; It is the duty of the Customs Authorities before selling goods so seized to remove the marks; and I understand that as a matter of course that provision of the Statute was complied with in this case. It is true that the prosecution of offences under the Act has been intrusted to the Board of Trade, but, in the present case, there could not have been any prosecution.

COLONEL HOWARD VINCENT: I will call attention to this matter on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

In reply to Mr. MACDONA (Southwark, Rotherhithe),

MR. BRYCE said, the object of the Merchandise Marks Act was to prevent the use of words which were calculated to give a false indication of the origin of articles so branded. These chisels which were seized were marked "Warranted cast steel," whereas they were of German manufacture, and such words were not properly applicable to them, hence they were seized.

SHIPS' PROVISIONS.

MR. KEIR-HARDIE (West Ham, S.): In the absence of the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state the total number of vessels that have sailed from the United Kingdom under "The Merchant Shipping (Inspection of Provisions) Act, 1892"; how many of such vessels' provisions have been inspected; the number of ships' provisions that satisfied the requirements of the Inspectors; and the number of ships whose provisions were rejected during that period?

MR. BRYCE: During the first year of the working of the Act to which my hon. Friend refers—namely, from the 10th of July, 1893, to the 9th of July, 1894—the total number of vessels that sailed from the United Kingdom under the Act was 2,491. Provisions were inspected for or on board of 2,395 vessels. Provisions were passed by the Inspectors for or on board of 1,477 vessels, and rejections occurred for or on board of 918 vessels. It is right to add that the rejection of even one package for or on board a ship is counted as a rejection. A total of 780,814 packages were inspected, and of these 8,642 packages were rejected, a proportion of a little over 1 per cent.

CATHOLICS IN THE ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.

MR. KENNEDY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state what percentage of the men of the Royal Irish Constabulary force are Catholics, and what percentage of the non-commissioned officers of the same force are Catholics?

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. J. MORLEY, Newcastle-upon-Tyne): From a Return of the religions of head and other constables in the Constabulary on January 1 last (which is the latest information available), I find that the proportion of constables serving on that date who were Roman Catholics was 73·4 per cent.; of acting sergeants, 74·8 per cent.; of sergeants, 70·9 per cent.; and of head constables, 65 per cent. The proportion of Catholics in all these ranks to the total number serving on the date mentioned was 72·8 per cent.

EXCISE SUMMONSES IN IRELAND.

MR. A. O'CONNOR (Donegal, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the police in Ireland serve Excise summonses; and whether there is any reason why such summonses should not be served in Ireland by the police as they are in England?

MR. J. MORLEY: The police in Ireland serve Inland Revenue summonses only in cases where they themselves prosecute, and in cases under the Gun Licence Act when specially requested to do so by the Supervisor of Inland Revenue. The Inspector General is not aware what summonses are served by the police in England, but seeing that the duties of the Royal Irish Constabulary are already so varied and multitudinous he considers it would not be possible to arrange that the latter shall serve summonses except in cases where they are the prosecutors. I shall, however, consult him further in this matter.

PARLIAMENTARY EXPENDITURE ON COMMISSIONS AND RETURNS.

MR. NAOROJI (Finsbury, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he would give a Return of the costs of Commissions, Committees, and Parliamentary Returns which have been paid from sources other than the British Exchequer?

THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Sir J. T. HIBBERT, Oldham): I am afraid that the Treasury has no means of preparing such a Return. If, as is possible, my hon. Friend refers to expenditure upon Commissions, &c., defrayed by the Government of India, I can only suggest that perhaps the Secretary of State for India could give him the information required.

COMMITTALS FOR TRIAL AT WEST HAM.

MR. MACDONA: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that in a case heard on the 11th of August, at the West Ham Borough Petty Sessions, the Borough Justices (contrary to their past practice of committing to the first Court having jurisdiction) committed a prisoner for trial at the Quarter Sessions to be held on the 19th of October, and refused to commit him for trial at the Central Criminal Court on the 11th of September, thereby causing delay and (unless bail be obtained) inflicting a period of nearly six weeks' imprisonment on a possibly innocent person; and whether the Lord Chancellor will inquire into the matter?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. ASQUITH, Fife, E.): The solicitor for the prosecution asked that the case might be sent to the Central Criminal Court on the 11th of September, but the prisoner's solicitor said that if the prisoner was allowed bail he preferred a committal to the Borough Sessions on the 19th of October. Under these circumstances, the Justices made the committal referred to. They allowed bail, and the necessary recognisances having been entered into, the prisoner was immediately released from custody.

BALTIMORE FISHING INDUSTRY.

MR. GILHOOLY (Cork Co., W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether representations have reached him that the want of a suitable pier at Baltimore is a great impediment to the fishing industry; whether an engineer from the Congested Districts Board recently visited Baltimore and reported as to its necessity; and whether immediate steps will be taken by the Congested Districts Board to have it erected?

MR. J. MORLEY: The application for the construction of a pier at Baltimore will be considered by the Congested Districts Board at their meeting to-morrow.

CASTLETOWN BEREHAVEN HARBOUR.

Mr. GILHOOLY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he will take action to compel the owner to remove the ice hulk in Castletown Berehaven Harbour, which is an obstruction to the fishing industry?

Mr. J. MORLEY: I have no power to compel the owner to remove this ice hulk; but I am in communication with the Grand Jury for the County of Cork on the subject, as I am not quite certain whether they have not some power in the matter.

H.M.S. "NORTHAMPTON."

Mr. GILHOOLY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, in accordance with promise, the *Northampton* will be sent to Bantry Bay?

The SECRETARY to the ADMIRALTY (Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth, Lancashire, Clitheroe): There has been no intention of sending the *Northampton* to Bantry Bay. But she is visiting three Irish ports in the course of the present cruise.

INQUIRY INTO INDIAN FINANCIAL EXPENDITURE.

Sir W. WEDDERBURN (Banffshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the promised Committee of Inquiry into Indian Financial Expenditure will be empowered to recommend increases or reductions in expenditure, particular and general; and whether, if so, the reasonableness of or necessity for any particular payment will be a question for the Committee?

The SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA (Mr. H. H. Fowler, Wolverhampton, E.): I think it better to defer the definition of the extent of the proposed reference until I submit the Motion for the appointment of the proposed Committee to the House. But I apprehend that any Committee of Inquiry into expenditure would be empowered to recommend increases or reductions.

EXCHANGE COMPENSATION ALLOWANCES.

Sir W. WEDDERBURN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has received any proposals from the Government of India for revising the Rules relating to Exchange Compensation Allowance; whether he will consider the propriety of making a distinction, as regards the rate of compensation, between officials who joined the Service some time ago, when exchange was high, and those who joined recently when exchange was low; whether, if compensation is continued, he will extend the benefits to all, of whatever race, who have to make family remittances to England; and whether he will discontinue compensation except on amounts so remitted?

*Mr. H. H. FOWLER: No proposals have been received from the Government of India for revising the Rules relating to Exchange Compensation Allowance. That allowance is based on the principle that, in the case of officers who have a European domicile, one-half of their salary up to a certain limit shall be paid at the rate of 18 pence per rupee. The Government of India do not propose to make a distinction between the officers according to the date when they joined the Service. The Government has no longer anything to do with family remittances to England, which are a purely private affair of the officers. Consequently, compensation cannot be given to officers who have not a European domicile, merely because they make family remittances; nor can it be discontinued because such remittances are not made.

MILITARY EXPENDITURE IN INDIA.

Sir W. WEDDERBURN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India, with reference to the recent Return entitled "East India (Military Expenditure)," and dated India Office, 8th June, 1894, whether it is to be inferred from the form of the Return that Rx.6,073,500 of expenditure incurred in Burma, and classed in the Return among exceptional payments, has, in spite of its exceptional character, been distributed under the ordinary headings of Army Services in the Indian Accounts during the last eight years; whether, if the exceptional payments given in the Return for the last eight years (except those relating to Burma throughout and Mobilisation in 1889-90) are included under the head Miscellaneous Services, he will explain how it happens that in 1891-2 the exceptional payments (excluding those on account of Burma) exceeded the Miscellaneous Services by Rx.62,709, being Rx.959,059 against Rx.896,386, put down for Miscellaneous Services; whether it may be inferred that in 1891-2 there was no other expenditure under the head of Miscellaneous Services except that classed in the Return as exceptional, but that Rx.62,709 of exceptional expenditure was distributed among the various ordinary headings of Army Services in the Indian Accounts; whether the amount expended on Miscellaneous Services during the eight years 1876-7 to 1883-4, both inclusive, when there were no exceptional payments, was, on the average, Rx.416,037, and in 1886-7, the only other year when there were no exceptional payments, Rx.620,706; whether during the five years 1884-5 to 1892-3, both inclusive, the average expenditure under Miscellaneous Services, after deducting all exceptional payments included under that head, was only Rx.114,002; and whether he can explain this fall of 75 per cent. in the charges under ordinary Miscellaneous Services on any other grounds than that a large portion of the exceptional payments have, as in the case of Burma, been distributed among the ordinary headings of Army Services in the Indian Accounts?

*MR. H. H. FOWLER: (1.) The extra charges for Upper Burma during the last eight years are included in the ordinary heads of Army Effective Services. They have only been included among exceptional payments in the Return in order to assist in showing how the increase of expenditure has arisen. (2.) In 1891-2 the charges for Upper Burma and Mobilisation are distributed among the several heads to which they appertain. The remainder of the exceptional payments, so far as appears in the Accounts, is included in Miscellaneous Services. (3.) The exceptional expenditure shown in 1891-2 is that mentioned in the Financial Statement. Without reference to India, it cannot be said whether there was other exceptional expenditure in that year. (4.) The expenditure recorded under the head of Miscellaneous Services averaged Rx.416,037 from 1876-7 to 1883-4, and was Rx.620,706 in 1886-7. (5.) There is some mistake in the question; the average expenditure under Miscellaneous Services, after deducting the exceptional payments, appears to be Rx.72,053 for the five years ending 1892-3, and Rx.297,055 for the nine years from 1884-5 to 1892-3. (6.) It is not known how far the payments included in Miscellaneous Services from 1875-6 to 1883-4 included such exceptional payments as are specified in the later years. Probably they were distributed among the various heads, and not compiled separately.

STATIONERY CONTRACTS.

MR. MACDONALD (Tower Hamlets, Bow): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the Committee which is to be appointed to inquire into the stationery contracts will include the binding as well as the printing contracts?

SIR J. T. HIBBERT: This matter shall receive careful consideration in settling the terms of Reference to the Committee when appointed; but I am not able to give a pledge upon the subject at present.

MARKET PRODUCE TRAFFIC ON THE GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.

MR. HUGH HOARE (Cambridge, Chesterton): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, with reference to the communication from Littleport under date of 27th March, coming from farmers occupying 78,000 acres and served by the Great Eastern Railway, any further steps can be taken by the Board of Trade to ensure a proper supply of trucks to customers of the Railway Company, as is the practice of other railways, and so to obviate the serious loss and delay thus caused to the farmers and traders of the neighbourhood?

MR. BRYCE: The Board of Trade have no statutory power to order a Railway Company to supply trucks for their customers. I have, however, been in friendly communication with the Great Eastern Railway Company on the subject, and I understand that the Directors have ordered a large number of additional trucks to be supplied annually.

MR. A.C. MORTON (Peterborough): If the right hon. Gentleman has no statutory power will he not use his influence to induce the Company to surmount difficulties which greatly interfere with traders and with the agricultural interest?

Mr. BRYCE: That is exactly what I have done, with the happy result I have announced.

TRADE BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND THE COLONIES.

Colonel HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if, having regard to the opinion given by the Law Officers of the Crown at the instance of the Ottawa Conference that while the Colonies and Dependencies of the Empire are absolutely free to make any preferential commercial arrangements between themselves, the Mother Country is debarred by a clause in the Treaties with Belgium and the Zollverein from accepting any proposals made by the Colonies for the preferential purchase of the products of Great Britain and Ireland, the Prime Minister and the Government will during the Recess consider the best means of relieving the United Kingdom from such trading disability within the British Empire?

Mr. BRYCE: In reply to the question of my hon. Friend, which ought to have been addressed to the Leader of the House rather than to myself, I can only say that the subject he raises cannot be duly considered by the Government until they have received the full Report of the proceedings of the recent Ottawa Conference.

Colonel HOWARD VINCENT: Will the right hon. Gentleman, who is responsible for the trade of the country, undertake that the matter shall be brought before the Government after the Recess?

Mr. BRYCE: It is obvious that the proceedings of the Conference will come before the Government; but the hon. Member ought to have put this question to the Leader of the House.

Colonel HOWARD VINCENT: He is not here.

INDIAN COAL MINES.

Mr. PROVAND (Glasgow, Blackfriars): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if he has received any Report from the Inspector appointed for the purpose relating to the employment of women in coal mines in India; and, if not, can he give any information as to when it may be expected?

*Mr. H. H. FOWLER: The Report to which the hon. Member refers has not been received, but it may be expected shortly.

Mr. PROVAND: Will it be printed and distributed during the Recess, or can it only be moved when the House resumes next Session?

Mr. H. H. FOWLER: I am afraid it cannot be done during the Recess, but I will inquire.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD INSPECTORS.

Mr. A. C. MORTON: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board what are the requirements of the Board for the appointment of Inspectors of the Local Government Board; what are the technical qualifications required; whether their duties include reporting on the nursing of the sick poor in infirmaries, and the management of the hospital wards; how far they can be considered responsible for not having reported on the condition of things officially admitted to have existed at Oldham, Bath, and other provincial workhouse infirmaries which are now known to be wholly unprovided with trained nurses for the attendance on the sick and aged people at night; and whether he is cognisant of the Reports on this subject on 12 provincial workhouses and infirmaries, in *The British Medical Journal*, all of them described in detail as disclosing cruel and shocking defects in the treatment of the sick poor?

*The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, Bradford, Central): No Rules have been laid down as to the qualifications for the office of General Inspector of the Local Government Board. During the last 20 years the officers appointed have almost without exception held office as Assistant Inspectors, and have thus obtained experience in the inspection of workhouses and the other duties which devolve on an Inspector. There are also two Medical Inspectors, one of whom acts in the Provinces, and is associated with the Inspector of the district in special inspections where the advice and assistance of a medical man is deemed desirable. It is the duty of the Inspectors when they visit the sick wards of a workhouse to inquire as to their arrangements, ascertain from the inmates whether they have any complaints, and report to the Board the result of the inspection, and especially any matters which they consider require a communication to the Guardians from the Board. They themselves deal with many other matters by direct communication with the Guardians. I have read with great regret the reports which have appeared in the journal referred to, and they are receiving my very careful attention. I have instructed the Inspector to deal with them in connection with his visits to the workhouses, and when it appears to be required a joint visit will be made by a Medical Inspector. I am aware that there are many Unions in which the Guardians still rely to a much greater extent than is desirable on the assistance given to the nurses by pauper wardsmen and wardswomen, and the subject is one that is constantly being brought under the attention of Boards of Guardians. In several of the cases mentioned the nursing arrangements have been the subject of communications either by the Board or their Inspectors. Although much remains to be done, I am glad to be able to state that there has been of late years a considerable increase in the number of nurses, and this, to a large extent, has been secured by the influence of the Board and their Inspectors. The importance of the questions affecting the care and comfort of the sick is fully realised by me, and I will give the whole subject my very careful consideration during the Recess.

MR. A. C. MORTON: As the right hon. Gentleman says the Inspectors are so well qualified, how is it it took them so long to discover the cruelties practised at the Brentwood Schools?

*MR. SHAW-LEFEVRE: It is very difficult, indeed, for the Inspectors to discover cases of that kind unless complaint is made to them, and in such a case the children would be likely to be so terrorized that they would be afraid to make a complaint.

MR. A. C. MORTON: Do the Inspectors take any opportunity of seeing the children themselves?

MR. SHAW-LEFEVRE: Yes, they do.

MR. HUGH HOARE: Do the Inspectors ever see the children after they leave the schools?

*MR. SHAW-LEFEVRE: That has been done in some cases, but even then it is not always possible to ascertain the facts. For instance, one of the children from this school became a servant in the household of the Inspector, and neither informed him or her fellow-servants of the treatment which children in the school had been subjected to.

OBSTRUCTING THE POLICE AT CLERKENWELL.

MR. KEIR-HARDIE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the statement in *The Weekly Dispatch* for 19th August of two Post Office officials who appealed to some police not to abuse a prisoner whom they were conveying to the lock-up; whether on going to Clerkenwell Police Station to lodge a complaint against the police they were charged with attempting to rescue the prisoner; whether on this charge coming before the Magistrate one of the accused was dismissed and the other bound over to keep the peace for three months; and whether he will cause a thorough investigation to be made into all the circumstances of the case?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (MR. GEORGE RUSSELL, North Beds.) (who replied) said: The Secretary of State has made inquiry into this matter, and is informed that the two persons to whom the question refers had interfered with the police in the execution of their duty when they were engaged with a drunken prisoner. Their prisoner was so violent that it required four constables to take him to the police station, and, after getting there, he drew a knife and threatened to stab one of the officers. The two persons in question, one of whom is named C. J. Strudwick, followed with a large crowd to the police station, and the constables, after lodging their prisoners inside the station, went out and arrested them. A third person, a woman, who had stoned the police on their way to the station, was arrested at the same time. The Magistrates discharged one person, named Samuel, but convicted the woman, and also convicted Strudwick, whom he bound over in the sum of £5 to keep the peace for three months. The Magistrate remarked that he could not overlook the fact that Strudwick seized hold of the constable while he was struggling with the prisoner, and advised him not to interfere with the police in the execution of their duty.

Mr. J. ROWLANDS (Finsbury, E.): Is it not the fact that Strudwick and his colleague went into the station to complain of the conduct of the police and were there arrested?

Mr. GEORGE RUSSELL: That is not my information.

Mr. J. ROWLANDS: Will the hon. Gentleman kindly inquire into that?

Mr. GEORGE RUSSELL: Yes, I will.

NON-OBSERVANCE OF CATHOLIC HOLIDAYS IN THE ARMY.

Mr. KENNEDY (Kildare, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, on 14th August, it appeared in District Orders that Divine Service for all Catholic soldiers in the Curragh Camp would be held on the 15th August (one of the chief Catholic holidays of obligation); that, nevertheless, the Regimental Authorities of the Royal Irish Fusiliers (largely a Catholic corps) cancelled the Order, and paraded the men twice on that day, once at 6.45 a.m. and again at 11 a.m., to prevent their attending Divine Service?

*The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the WAR OFFICE (Mr. Woodall, Hanley) (who replied) said: It appears from the District Order of the 14th instant that voluntary services for Roman Catholics would take place at the Curragh on the 15th of August. The officer commanding the Royal Irish Fusiliers states that facilities for attending such services were given to the men under his command.

INDIAN DUTIES ON SHEFFIELD GOODS.

Colonel HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if, having regard to the statement in the official *Labour Gazette* for August that 50 per cent. of the spring-knife cutters at Sheffield, and 80 per cent. of the steel and table fork makers are only partially employed, and to the long continuance of this depression, he will suggest to the Indian Government the remission of the 5 per cent. Import Duty imposed upon hardware and cutlery by The Indian Tariff Act, 1894, and point out that they may obtain a large revenue by an extra and differential duty upon the goods imported from foreign countries outside the British Empire, the value of which amounts to Rx.26,000,000 annually, and is constantly increasing?

*Mr. H. H. FOWLER: I am not able to suggest to the Government of India the remission of the duty of 5 per cent. imposed by the new Tariff Act on hardware and cutlery; and I do not agree in the opinion that a large revenue can be obtained by a differential duty on goods imported from foreign countries.

THE CASE OF BHAI JASMAIR SINGH.

Mr. A. C. MORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to His Excellency the Governor General of India in Council's Despatch, dated 27th February, 1889, forwarding to the Secretary of State for India the Memorial of Bhai Jasmair Singh, of Kythal and Arnowli, in which it is stated that it was against the Orders contained in Despatch, No. 12, Political, dated 28th March, 1849, in Paragraphs 9–11, of which the honourable Court of Directors expressed their approval of the Orders passed by the Government of India in this case, and against the refusal of the Government to re-consider them that the Memorialist was appealing; and will he explain why, during a long period passed in appealing to the various authorities in India, the Memorialist was never informed of the existence of this Despatch of the honourable Court of Directors?

Mr. H. H. FOWLER: I have seen the letter from the Government of India of 27th February, 1889, and the correspondence on the subject which passed between the India Office and gentlemen interested in the claimant at the beginning of this year. I am unwilling to speak positively about the details of what took place in 1849. It appears, however, that the Despatch of the Court of Directors of the 28th March, 1849, was not a decision on an appeal from the claimant which would necessarily be communicated to him, but a confirmation of Orders passed in 1847 by the Government of India, and communicated to the parties interested, and acted on in that year. These Orders were valid from the date of their issue, and there was apparently no reason why the parties interested should have been informed of the correspondence with the Home Government.

POLICE ON IRISH RAILWAY PLATFORMS.

Mr. A. O'CONNOR (Donegal, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) whether the Railway Companies in Ireland pay any contribution to the cost of the police in respect of the constables patrolling railway platforms; and (2) whether there is any reason why Irish Railway Companies should not pay for their own police, as do the English Railway Companies?

Mr. J. MORLEY: (1) The Railway Companies in Ireland do not pay any contribution in respect of the duty referred to, as the police merely attend at railway stations in discharge of their ordinary duty, and not at the instance of the Companies. (2) When, however, an Irish Railway Company requisitions police on special occasions, such as, for instance, a race meeting, the Company is required to pay at the rate of £76 13s. per annum for each man so employed, together with travelling expenses and subsistence allowance.

Mr. A. O'CONNOR asked why it was that the police patrolled the platforms and the premises of the Company, and did not confine themselves to the public road?

Mr. J. MORLEY: I suppose the police were walking about on the platform in the same way as they would on the road. There are obvious reasons why in certain cases the police should attend the trains, but I must admit that it is rather overdone.

Mr. SEXTON (Kerry, N.): Is there any reason in Ireland any more than in England why policemen should be called upon to do duty in this way at railway stations?

Mr. J. MORLEY: There can be no possible reason. I have said that it is overdone, and I will inquire into the matter.

Mr. STOREY (Sunderland): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that in the country districts policemen attend trains for the purpose of having a little gossip?

[No answer was given.]

THE BARROW DRAINAGE SCHEME.

Mr. A. O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the serious losses which the riparian occupiers along the Barrow have sustained again this year from the floods; and whether it is in contemplation to issue in November next the necessary Notices for a Bill next Session for the drainage of the river basin similar to that introduced by the late Government?

Mr. J. MORLEY: The necessary steps for the introduction of a Bill dealing with this matter were taken by the late Government, as no doubt my hon. Friend recollects, in two successive Sessions of Parliament, but owing to the opposition the measure met with in the House of Commons it was not proceeded with. If I am satisfied that the riparian owners are unanimous in their desire for the re-introduction of the Bill, and that it will meet with no substantial opposition, I will carefully consider the desirability of taking the necessary steps to introduce it.

Mr. A. O'CONNOR: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the reason why the Barrow scheme did not pass was that the late Chief Secretary insisted on the Bann scheme having precedence over it?

Mr. J. MORLEY: My recollection as to the schemes for the Bann and Barrow are rather vague, and I cannot answer that question.

MR. DONALD MACRAE AND THE DEER FORESTS COMMISSION.

Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware that, at the sitting of the Deer Forests Commission, held at Knoydart, Inverness-shire, on the 5th of July last, the crofters were unrepresented by their agent, Mr. Donald Macrae, owing to the refusal of Commissioner Gordon to allow him a passage from Tarbert to Knoydart by the steamer *Marmion*, chartered for the work of the Commission; whether it is proposed to give the crofters of Knoydart an opportunity, through their agent, Mr. Donald Macrae, of stating their case; whether he is aware that it was impossible for Mr. Macrae to reach Knoydart by the ordinary means of communication; and whether, in future, travelling facilities will be given on board any steamer chartered at the public cost for the use of the Deer Forests Commission to Mr. Donald Macrae whilst he is engaged in the capacity of agent for the crofters and acting for them on any public inquiry in connection with the work of the Commission?

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Sir G. TREVELYAN, Glasgow, Bridgeton): The Commission were always willing to give Mr. D. Macrae a passage when they were going from point to point, and only refused on the occasion referred to because they were not going direct to Knoydart, but had to call at various Islands on the way. Mr. Macrae, however, could have reached Knoydart by the ordinary means of communication, as indeed the agent to the landlord did. The Highland and Islands Commission have no longer a steamer at their disposal.

INSTRUCTION IN THE IRISH LANGUAGE.

MR. SEXTON: On behalf of the hon. and gallant Member for East Cork, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether any Professor of Irish is at present engaged at Marlborough Street Training College, Dublin; and, if not, what facilities are afforded to National school teachers in Ireland of acquiring such a knowledge of the Irish language as will enable them to impart instruction in English to children in Irish-speaking districts through the medium of their native tongue; and whether, in view of the admitted necessity for this knowledge, he will recommend the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland to appoint a Professor of Irish at this Training College should no such Professorship now exist there?

MR. J. MORLEY: There is no Professor of Irish in Marlborough Street Training College, nor is there any Professor of Irish employed in any of the denominational Training Colleges. The Commissioners annually examine teachers for certificates to teach Irish, and they supply text-books at cost price for the use of classes learning Irish. Irish is also a subject which teachers may select in their examinations for promotion in the first class. At the annual examination of the teachers for the current year 29 teachers presented themselves for examination in Irish. Further, for proficiency of pupils in Irish the Commissioners grant a fee of 10s. per pass for each of the three years in which a pupil may be presented for examination in the subject. In 1893 there were 50 schools in which Irish was taught, and 903 pupils were presented in these schools for examination for results fees. The question of appointing a Professor to teach Irish at the Marlborough Street Training College was referred by the Commissioners to the Professors of the College for their opinion some years ago, and their unanimous reply was that Irish could not possibly be introduced into the curriculum of the College, except by the exclusion of some other subject of certainly more pressing importance.

MR. SEXTON inquired whether, in view of the importance of this subject to the teachers, the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider his decision?

MR. J. MORLEY: I quite understand this subject being interesting to gentlemen from Ireland, and I will ascertain a little more precisely whether there are any good arguments against the establishment of an Irish Chair.

RESULT FEES FOR IRISH.

MR. SEXTON: On behalf of the hon. and gallant Member for East Cork, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that result fees for Irish are not allowed to National school teachers in Ireland in respect to pupils under the fifth class; and whether, in view of the importance in Irish-speaking districts of employing the vernacular in the junior classes as a means of teaching English, and of the fact that the majority of pupils leave school before reaching the fifth class, he will advise the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland to consider the desirability of extending the system of result fees in Irish to all classes?

MR. J. MORLEY: Results fees for Irish are not paid for pupils lower than the fifth class. The Commissioners have informed me that the existing arrangement limiting the award of results fees for proficiency in the Irish language to pupils in the fifth and sixth classes was only determined after mature consideration, and that at present they see no sufficient reason for altering the arrangement.

MR. SEXTON: As most of the children in Ireland leave school before the fifth class is reached, does it not appear that the exclusion of Irish deprives them of the opportunity of being taught English through the vernacular in districts where Irish is the only language spoken?

MR. J. MORLEY: I think that is an argument for consideration.

RELATIVES ON THE MAGISTERIAL BENCH.

MR. W. ABRAHAM (Cork Co., N.E.): On behalf of the hon. Member for South Galway, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland is it a fact that Mr. Arthur Hall, Athenry, County Galway, is about being appointed a Magistrate for the County Galway; if he is aware that Mr. Hall's brother and brother-in-law are both Magistrates for the small Petty Sessions district of Athenry; and will the Lord Chancellor's attention be called to these matters before Mr. Hall's appointment is confirmed?

MR. J. MORLEY: When a gentleman is recommended for appointment to the Commission of the Peace it is the practice of the Lord Chancellor to ascertain whether he has any near relative already in the Commission, and the appointment is only made on the condition that the gentleman shall not sit at Petty Sessions on the same occasion with such relative. My hon. Friend may rest assured that in considering whether the appointment to which he refers should be made due regard will be had to these conditions, and to all the circumstances of the case.

ADMIRALTY TOWN ESTABLISHMENT.

MR. MOLLOY (King's Co., Birr): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, when the Committee on the Accountant General's Department have formulated their Report, steps will at once be taken to determine the normal clerical establishments of the remaining 11 departments constituting the Admiralty town establishment?

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Sir U. KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH, Lancashire, Clitheroe): Yes, Sir; the normal clerical establishments of the Admiralty generally will be determined.

SECOND DIVISION CLERKS IN THE ADMIRALTY.

MR. MOLLOY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, with reference to his assurance that in connection with the general settlement of the staff every regard will be shown to the interests of the Second Division Clerks, he will reconsider all the recommendations which have been made by Heads of Departments, and have not been acted upon, since the issue of the Order in Council of the 21st of March, 1890, for the promotion of Second Division Clerks to the Higher Division, to staff posts, and to the upper grade of the Second Division?

SIR U. KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH: I am informed that no specific recommendations remain unanswered. The general question of the creation of staff appointments awaits the Report of the Committee which has been considering the normal clerical establishment of the Accountant General's Department. In the meantime, appointments from the Second Division have been made whenever this has appeared to be desirable in the interests of the Service.

PROSECUTIONS FOR DISCHARGING FIREARMS IN THE STREETS.

MR. KENNEDY: On behalf of the hon. Member for Carlow, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on the 8th of June last a gamekeeper named Rutledge, in the employment of Mr. R. P. Beresford, J.P., County Carlow, was detected by Sergeant Burke, of the Royal Irish Constabulary, discharging firearms in the street of Fenagh; that, notwithstanding that Sergeant Burke took Rutledge's address in presence of the bystanders, no further proceedings were taken to prosecute him at the local Petty Sessions; can he state by what authority was the prosecution dropped; and will he take steps to revive it?

MR. J. MORLEY: I am informed that the gamekeeper on the occasion referred to was in the act of crossing the public road (not street) from one field to another when he discharged the gun at some magpies. He stated he was not aware he had infringed the law, and expressed regret at the occurrence. Under the circumstances, the District Inspector did not consider it desirable to institute a prosecution.

Mr. KENNEDY asked if the man had been a poor peasant and not Mr. Beresford's gamekeeper would he not have been summoned?

Mr. J. MORLEY: I cannot say that. The gamekeeper was duly licensed to carry a gun, and was stated to be perfectly sober at the time. The District Inspector, in my judgment, if I am rightly informed of the facts, used a wise discretion.

THE ROYAL VICTORIA VICTUALLING YARD, DEPTFORD.

Mr. MACDONALD: On behalf of the hon. Member for South West Ham, I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether his attention has been called to an advertisement in *The Kentish Mercury* of 17th August for a competent shoemaker to assist in examining the boots and shoes sent to the stores at the Royal Victoria Victualling Yard, Deptford, at a weekly wage of 23s.; whether the wage of a journeyman shoemaker in London is over 30s. per week; whether the two examiners already employed are paid 30s. weekly; and whether he will instruct the superintendent to pay the Trades Union rate of wages to the person who receives the new appointment?

Sir U. KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH: I have seen the advertisement in question, which called for the services of a person competent to assist the shoemaker. The wages of the shoemakers at Deptford are 22s. 6d. to 30s. a week. The man to be entered will be a labourer, who will receive labourer's pay of 20s. a week, and when assisting the shoemaker in opening up boots for examination will receive an additional 6d. a day.

Mr. MACDONALD: I beg also to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the notice posted at the Deptford Victualling Yard stopping all leave of absence which does not carry a corresponding loss of pay includes the one hour per quarter hitherto granted to the workmen; and whether it applies to the officials as well as the skilled workmen and labourers?

Sir U. KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH: The notice posted at the Deptford Victualling Yard is the same as that posted at all the yards—namely, that absence of workmen from the Yard, either with or without leave, is to be considered as time lost. This notice is incidental to the modifications consequent on the introduction of the 48 hours' week, which does not apply to the officials of the Yard.

CARDINAL LOGUE AND THE MIGRATION COMPANY.

Mr. D. SULLIVAN (Westmeath, S.): On behalf of the hon. and learned Member for North Louth, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been drawn to a letter published by His Eminence Cardinal Logue respecting the Irish Land and Migration Company and the dealings of the Government therewith, especially as to the free gift of £50,000 by the State; and will any explanation be called for from any person concerned, or is it intended to take any notice of or call for any reply to the statements of His Eminence?

Mr. J. MORLEY: My attention was, of course, directed to the correspondence to which my hon. Friend refers, which has excited a good deal of interest. I am in communication with the Treasury on the subject, and I think that a correspondence is now in progress between the Treasury and the Land Commission.

Mr. SEXTON: So little is known about this matter, I would ask the right hon. Gentleman whether it is true that the Land Commission, after receiving £43,000 as mortgagees, applied to the Vice Chancellor; whether the Vice Chancellor appointed a liquidator; whether the liquidator is receiving the rents and annuities of the tenants in discharge of the advance from the State, and whether the Land Commission are proceeding for the principal or for arrears of interest?

Mr. J. MORLEY: My hon. Friend is perfectly correct in his account of this transaction in its present circumstances.

The Vice Chancellor appointed a liquidator at the instance of the Land Commission, and I understand that there is a possibility, in respect of the unpaid portion of the shares, that the members of the association may be called upon to pay the full measure of liability; but I am not able to say whether the Commission are proceeding to recover arrears, or otherwise.

Mr. SEXTON: I trust that the right hon. Gentleman will think it right to point out to the Land Commission the inexpediency of levying calls upon the shareholders in respect to the whole principal.

Mr. J. MORLEY: As my hon. Friend knows, this is really not an Irish Office matter. I will wait to see the effect of the communications between the Treasury and the Land Commission before deciding what course to take. It probably will be not far from that indicated by my hon. Friend.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

Sir R. TEMPLE (Surrey, Kingston): On behalf of the hon. Member for Lynn Regis, I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, during the continuance of the existing war between China and Japan, British merchant vessels are liable, in common with other neutrals, to the exercise by any man-of-war of either belligerent of the right of search, in order to ascertain the nationality of the vessel as professed by its flags, and also to ascertain whether any part of its cargo is contraband of war; whether this right of search is exercisable in the case of China by duly commissioned Chinese privateers, China not having acceded to the Declaration of Paris of 1856, but not by Japanese privateers, Japan having acceded to that Declaration; whether, China having retained and Japan having renounced, by the Declaration of Paris, the exercise of the right to capture enemy's goods in neutral vessels, Her Majesty's Government propose to issue any notice to shipowners and shipmasters warning them that, though not liable to capture by Japanese men-of-war or privateers when carrying Chinese goods, enemy's property, they are nevertheless liable to capture either by Chinese men-of-war or by Chinese privateers when carrying Japanese goods, enemy's property; and whether Her Majesty's Government propose to give to British shipowners and shipmasters any intimation or guidance as to whether coal is contraband of war, and whether they are prohibited from supplying either belligerent with coal under risk of capture and confiscation by the other belligerent?

Sir E. GREY: It is impossible to answer this question without departing from the course which has hitherto been followed by all British Governments in the course of former wars. In time of war commercial transactions must be conducted on the responsibility of those interested in them, who can obtain legal advice on questions of International Law, and Her Majesty's Government consider that it would not be for the public interest to attempt to lay down rules with reference to cases which have not yet occurred.

POSTCARDS.

Major JONES (Carmarthen, &c.): On behalf of the hon. Member for Montgomery, I beg to ask the Postmaster General whether he can state the date on which the Regulations authorising the transmission at the halfpenny rate of communications written on cards other than postcards, but having a halfpenny stamp affixed, will come into operation?

***Mr. A. MORLEY**: It is hoped that the Regulations will come into force on the 1st September, if the necessary legal formalities can be completed in time.

JOURNEYMEN BAKERS' HOURS OF LABOUR.

Mr. BARROW (Southwark, Bermondsey): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to an inquest held at Bermondsey Town Hall, on Tuesday 21st, on the body of Henry Bortsh, a baker, who was reported to have worked 21 hours in a bakehouse; and whether he will take the necessary steps to prevent men from being employed such a number of hours in succession?

Mr. GEORGE RUSSELL: The Secretary of State's attention has been called to a newspaper report of this sad case. We feel that it is a deplorable thing that anyone should work for such excessive hours, but the law at present imposes no limits upon the labour which adult men may undertake.

Mr. JOHN BURNS (Battersea): Is the Under Secretary for the Home Department aware that, in spite of the efforts of various Trades Unions to reduce the number of hours worked in one day, very little has been effected in the baking trade? Is it not desirable, too, that underground bakehouses should be abolished altogether?

Mr. GEORGE RUSSELL: I think we all agree with my hon. Friend as to that.

FRANCHISE LAWS IN NATAL.

Sir W. WEDDERBURN (Banffshire): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Secretary of State for the Colonies has received a Petition from Indian-British subjects in the Colony of Natal, protesting against the Franchise Law Amendment Bill, just passed in the Natal Parliament; whether the effect of that Bill is to exclude Indians from the franchise; whether it is the fact, as alleged in the Debate, that the Asiatic communities have never exercised the privilege of the franchise; and whether the Secretary of State will disallow the Bill, on the ground that it is retrograde in character and based upon race disqualification?

The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. S. Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): (1) Such a Petition has been received, and it is understood that it is to be followed by another. (2.) The effect is as stated by the hon. Member, except in the case of Indians already properly on the voters' rolls. (3.) As regards 3, we have no information. (4.) The Act has only just come under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, and I cannot, therefore, make any statement on the subject at present.

Dr. CLARK (Caithness): Is it the case that the Indian population in Natal is equal in number to the European population?

Mr. S. BUXTON: I believe it is nearly the same, but I cannot say offhand.

MERIALL'S CHARITY, SWANSCOMBE.

Mr. HOWELL (Bethnal Green, N.E.): I beg to ask the Parliamentary Charity Commissioner whether he can inform the House what steps are being taken to ensure the payment of the rent-charge on the Meriall's Charity Estate, at Swanscombe, in Kent; whether, failing such payment, the Charity Commissioners intend to take action under The Charitable Trusts (Recovery) Act, 1891; and whether the Charity Commission will present a Report upon this case to the House?

Sir J. T. HIBBERT: Perhaps I may be allowed to answer this question. The Charity Commissioners are of opinion that no steps can now be effectually taken under The Charitable Trusts (Recovery) Act, 1891, or otherwise, for the recovery of the rent-charge in this case. The case does not materially differ from others in which the property of charities has been lost in consequence of the omission to take action within the period fixed by the Statute of Limitations, and it does not, therefore, seem to be necessary to adopt the course of making a special Report upon it.

Mr. HOWELL: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the person who holds this money was himself a trustee of the charity?

Sir J. T. HIBBERT replied that he knew nothing of the details. For them the hon. Member should apply to the Charity Commissioners.

Mr. HOWELL asked the right hon. Gentleman if he would lay the Papers before the Public Prosecutor?

Sir J. T. HIBBERT said, that would be considered.

MESSENGERS' HOLIDAYS.

Mr. MACDONALD: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether established messengers who have been in the Service more than five years receive for holidays only 16 working days; and, if so, whether they are entitled by the Treasury Minute of 17th February, 1894, to 18 working days, exclusive of public holidays?

Sir J. T. HIBBERT: The Treasury Minute expressed the opinion that the holiday of established messengers with more than five years' service should be limited to 18 working days, exclusive of public holidays. Within this limit the Treasury has not issued instructions to Heads of Departments prescribing the exact amount of leave to be allowed.

EXPRESS LETTERS.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON: I beg to ask the Postmaster General when the privilege of posting express letters in letter-boxes in Piccadilly and elsewhere in London will be brought into operation; and whether a special stamp will be required?

MR. A. MORLEY: Express letters, which are intended for transmission in the first instance by the ordinary post, may be posted in any letter-box in Piccadilly, or elsewhere, as the hon. Member will find on consulting the *Post Office Guide* or Post Office Hand-Book. This has always been the rule. The letters must be properly marked for express delivery, as required by the Rules, but no special stamp is required.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON asked whether the right hon. Gentleman was aware that in the *Post Office Guide*, page 229, it was distinctly laid down that

"every express letter for inland delivery must be handed in over the counter. In no case must it be posted in a letter-box"?

MR. A. MORLEY: All express letters can be posted in a pillar-box.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON: There is a paragraph in the Annual Report of the Department that a letter for Buenos Ayres may be posted in a letter-box in Piccadilly, and will be sent by the first service to that country. Is that so? Why not give the Metropolis the same advantages as Buenos Ayres?

MR. A. MORLEY: I do not think there is anything inconsistent between that statement and the Regulation in the *Postal Guide*. If a letter is intended for transmission in the first instance by the ordinary post it may be posted anywhere.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON: Did I understand the right hon. Gentleman to say that an express letter may be posted in any pillar-box in Piccadilly for any part of London or for Manchester to be delivered by express messenger?

MR. A. MORLEY: Yes.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Postmasters deny that?

[No answer was given.]

THE NEW ESTATE DUTY.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether his attention has been called to Clause 7 of the "Affidavit or Affirmation for Inland Revenue, Form B 1, Estate Duty," under The Finance Act, 1894, which states as follows:—

"(7) The deceased was (or was not) possessed of or entitled to property as a trustee and not beneficially. The short particulars of such property, and of the disposition, and the names and addresses of the surviving trustees (if any), and of the beneficiaries are shown in the statement hereto annexed and marked";

and if he will state under what clause of the Finance Act an executor is required to give this information?

***SIR J. T. HIBBERT**: Section 8 (Sub-section 14) of the Finance Act, 1894, directs that all affidavits, accounts, &c., used for the purpose of the Act

"shall be in such form and contain such particulars as may be prescribed."

By Section 22, Sub-section 1 (0), the expression "prescribed" means prescribed by the Commissioners. The information is asked for as much in the interests of the public as for the protection of the Revenue. It will enable the Commissioners to warn representatives of any claim which may arise under the death, and so prevent such claim being subsequently sprung upon them.

MR. BARTLEY: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that this requirement will involve an enormous amount of trouble and expense?

***SIR J. T. HIBBERT** admitted that in some cases it might be difficult to give all the information asked for. The subject was an intricate and difficult one. If the hon. Member would send him his views upon it in writing he would gladly give them full consideration.

MR. BARTLEY: Will the right hon. Gentleman consent to withdraw a clause so complicated until the matter can be thoroughly considered? Otherwise a number of awkward questions may arise within the next six months.

***SIR J. T. HIBBERT**: I am afraid I cannot undertake to withdraw anything without full consideration.

THE BRITISH EAST AFRICA COMPANY.

MR. LAWRENCE (Liverpool, Abercromby): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of his statement a short time ago to the effect that the delay in settling terms of compensation with the British East Africa Company has been due to the difference between the Government and the Company as to what the amount should be, he will state what terms have been proposed by Her Majesty's Government and declined by the Company; whether the Government gave any opinion on the terms offered by the Company on 23rd June, 1893, and withdrawn 8th May, 1894; and, if no opinion has been expressed by Government on this proposal, then on what proposal has the difference of opinion arisen which has been alleged by him in the House; and whether Government have any proposals to make to the Company, and by whom the amount of compensation is to be finally determined?

Sir E. GREY: No definite offer has been made to the Company, because it is understood from their proposals that their views and those of Her Majesty's Government differ too widely as to the value of their interest in the chartered territory. As far as Her Majesty's Government and the Sultan of Zanzibar are concerned, there is no reason why negotiations with regard to the sale of the concession should not proceed at once. If the terms of a settlement cannot be arranged between the Government and the Company it will become necessary to consider what is the present position of the Company with reference to its Charter and the duties which that Charter involved.

Mr. A. C. MORTON (Peterborough): May I ask whether the hon. Member will tell the House the amount which the Company claim as compensation?

Sir E. GREY: I believe that the amount in the first offer was £300,000, but I am speaking from memory.

Mr. LAWRENCE: Have the Government ever intimated to the Company that they thought that demand excessive?

Sir E. GREY: I understood that the Company were certainly aware that the Government were not prepared to accept that offer. That the Government thought the demand too large was clear from the fact that they did not accept it.

Sir W. LAWSON (Cumberland, Cockermouth): Will the Under Secretary give an undertaking that, before any money is paid as compensation, the matter will be brought before the House?

Mr. STOREY: Are we quite to understand that if the Government pay any money, they will get an adequate return for it to the benefit of the public.

Mr. Lawrence

Mr. A. C. MORTON: Have the Company any legal or moral claim against the Government?

Sir E. GREY: According to constitutional practice, business of this kind between the Government and a Company must be transacted on the responsibility of the Government itself?

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): Is it not a fact that the Company have done a great deal to advance the political and commercial interests of this country in East Africa?

Mr. STOREY: I understood my hon. Friend to say that any decision as to the payment of money to the Company must be taken on the responsibility of the Government. I suppose that the decision of the Government will require ratification by this House before the money is actually paid?

Sir E. GREY: The House, of course, can either approve or disapprove of any action taken by the Government; but I cannot give an undertaking that the Government will consult the House before taking a decision on their own responsibility.

Mr. A. C. MORTON: The hon. Gentleman has not answered my question whether the Company have any legal or moral claim against the Government.

Mr. TOMLINSON (Preston): Is it true that two learned gentlemen, Members of this House, have advised the Company that they have a claim against the Sultan of Zanzibar, and is that claim affected by any action taken by the Government?

Mr. CREMER (Shoreditch, Haggerston): What is the nature of the claim that has been made?

Sir E. GREY: In answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough, I have to say that there is a dispute between the Government and the Company at the present moment. That they have some claim is evident, because they have a valuable commercial concession from the Sultan of Zanzibar. They have some claim on that account. In reply to the question whether the matter will ultimately come before the House, I may remind hon. Members that, if the Government made any payment to the Company, they must afterwards ask the House for a Vote in respect of such payment. I cannot promise that the

Government will consult the House beforehand.

MR. STOREY: That is a point on which I desire to press the hon. Baronet. I wish to ask whether, considering the peculiar circumstances of the case, and the strong feeling in some quarters of the House of Commons against any payment of money to the Company, my hon. Friend will follow the precedent which has been set in some cases and enter into a conditional agreement only with the Company, that agreement to be subject to ratification by the House?

MR. CREMER: The hon. Baronet has not told me the exact nature of the claim which the Company has against the Government. I understood the hon. Gentleman to say that, because the Sultan of Zanzibar had granted certain concessions to the Company, they have a claim against the Government. I must say——

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is only entitled to ask a question.

SIR E. GREY: No, I do not think I said that. What I intended to convey was that, the Sultan of Zanzibar having given a concession to the Company, they must have a claim if that concession is taken away. That claim, of course, would be against the Sultan of Zanzibar. The Company still hold two posts in the chartered territory, where they have certain stores, &c., just as they had in Uganda. Therefore, the question of their interests in the chartered territory is not denied; but the extent and amount of that interest is just the question in dispute. In answer to the hon. Member for Sunderland, I must say that, however strong a feeling there may be in this House with regard to the claim of the East Africa Company, it is clear that it is a divided feeling, and I think there are no peculiar circumstances in this case which would justify the Government in doing anything except taking a decision on its own initiative and responsibility.

***SIR C. W. DILKE** (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): Will the Government in negotiating with the Company take into consideration any compensation which the former may undertake to pay to the French and German Roman Catholic missionaries in respect of the events in Uganda in Captain Lugard's time, and will they deduct the amount so paid from any compensation claimed by the Company?

SIR E. GREY: This question is of a hypothetical character, the question of the claims of the missionaries not having yet been settled. I cannot, therefore, give any definite answer.

DERELICT IN THE NORTH SEA.

MR. MACDONA (Southwark, Rotherhithe): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that, on the 18th instant, the schooner *Ruth*, from Malmo, was reported to have been seen waterlogged as a floating derelict about 60 miles west of the Naze, in the track of passenger steamers and timber ships in the North Sea, sailing from Norway, Sweden, Russia, and Germany to England, America, and other parts, to the great risk and danger of these vessels travelling in the usual trade route of the North Sea; if this be so, whether he will inform the Trinity Board of the fact, and instruct them to search for this dangerous floating derelict with a view to its immediate destruction, so as to prevent any further possible disaster of a like sort in this much-frequented part of the North Sea?

MR. BRYCE: This derelict reported by a sailing vessel arriving at Buckie on the 18th instant was sighted on fire some days previously in the position stated, which is about 40 miles from the coast of Norway. I am advised that it is not expedient to instruct the Trinity House to detach one of their tenders from their important lighthouse duties for the purpose of searching for and endeavouring to destroy a derelict which was more than 200 miles from the British coast about a week ago and so near to the coast of a neighbouring Power.

MR. MACDONA: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that at the Surrey Commercial Docks there is an immense number of vessels and steamers which constantly ply between this country and Norway, Sweden, and the Baltic. As this derelict will constitute a grave danger to them and to the lives of the seamen, will the right hon. Gentleman urge the Government to attend to the matter?

Mr. BRYCE: I am well aware there is a large trade between this country and Norway; but, as this vessel was last seen within 20 miles of the Norwegian coast, in all probability it has gone ashore now, and more harm would be likely to result from taking a Trinity House tender from her duties to search for it than by leaving the matter as it stands.

Mr. TOMLINSON: If, as the right hon. Gentleman seems to imply, the duty of destroying this derelict rests with Norway cannot he negotiate with Foreign Governments for an International arrangement?

Mr. BRYCE: What I said was that in all probability the vessel had floated ashore by this time. Negotiations are in progress on the general question.

Mr. MACDONA: Have not the American Government been in the habit of destroying English derelicts near their coasts, and ought not a large Mercantile Power like England to show the same solicitude for the common safety?

Colonel HOWARD VINCENT: Is there any proof that the vessel has gone ashore?

Mr. BRYCE: If the hon. Member for Central Sheffield had listened to my answer he would have heard that the vessel was last sighted on the 18th instant, and was then some distance from the shore. It is quite true the American Government have destroyed derelicts when able to do so. But the point is that we have not a vessel at our disposal.

Mr. MACDONA: Will the right hon. Gentleman apply to the Admiralty for a vessel?

[No answer was given.]

IRISH WHISKY PERMITS.

Mr. A. O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether all Excise officers in Ireland are supplied with hydrometers, and whether they have always available means or receive directions to test the accuracy of spirit dealers' hydrometers, or the accuracy of the permits which spirit dealers issue to customers, or the strength of the whisky sent out under these permits?

Sir J. T. HIBBERT (who replied) said: All Excise officers in Ireland are not supplied with hydrometers, but only those who have to use them in the performance of their duties. The Department has no power to test the accuracy of spirit dealers' hydrometers. The correctness of the permits (or, more accurately, certificates) referred to is always capable of being checked. A spirit-dealer is liable to a penalty of £100 for every incorrect certificate he sends to a customer.

Mr. A. O'CONNOR wished to know what system of checking these certificates was employed, or whether there was any check at all?

Sir J. T. HIBBERT: All the certificates, I presume, are examined.

Sir W. LAWSON: Is there any special officer to test the strength of the whisky?

Sir J. T. HIBBERT: I cannot say that.

IRISH BEER BARRELS.

Mr. A. O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he is aware that the barrels used by brewers in Ireland contain only 32 gallons as against 36 contained by barrels used in England, and whether he will take care that this difference shall be kept in view in any Returns made of the quantities of beer sent from Ireland for consumption in Great Britain; and if he can say what are the respective capacities of the English and the Irish hogshead?

Sir J. T. HIBBERT (who replied) said: I am aware that the barrels used by brewers in Ireland contain 32 gallons, while those used in England contain 36 gallons. The difference has always been kept in view in connection with the Returns referred to. The English hogshead contains 54 gallons; the Irish hogshead 48.

THE LIBERATOR BUILDING SOCIETY.

Mr. CREMER: I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been called to statements repeatedly published, that the Official Receiver of the Liberator Building Society has borrowed large sums of money at the rate of 6 per cent. and 10 per cent. bonus from the Debenture Corporation to complete the various buildings which were commenced by the Liberator and other Societies which formed the Balfour group; if he can state whether builders were publicly invited to tender for the completion of the works, or whether the works are being practically executed by men who were on the staff of the convict Hobbs; and, if so, who is supervising and controlling them; whether the Official Receiver made any effort to borrow money at a less rate of interest from the Public Works Loan Commissioners or any other source; and whether, considering that the fearful ruin which has resulted from the failure of the Liberator has made it a national disaster, he will consent to the appointment of a Select Committee at the opening of next Session for the purpose of inquiring into the past connection of the Debenture Corporation and the Balfour Group of Companies; and, further, from what source funds have been supplied to Jabez Spencer Balfour for the last two years by means of which he has up till now been able to evade justice?

MR. BRYCE: I will answer this question. It is true that the Official Receiver of the Liberator Building Society and other Companies of the so-called Balfour Group has, with the approval of the Committee of Inspection and the sanction of the Court, borrowed large sums of money from the Debenture Corporation at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum. The further bonus has relation not to the amount borrowed, but to the amount ultimately distributed. Progress Reports containing particulars of these transactions have been sent to the creditors and contributories concerned. The Official Receiver reports that work undertaken since the commencement of the liquidation has been tendered for by selected firms, and the lowest tenders have been accepted. Certain work which was already in progress before the liquidation has been completed by the staff of J. W. Hobbs & Co. under the direction of the Official Receiver and the Special Manager. Applications for advances were unsuccessfully made to several financial and other institutions, but the Official Receiver and Committees were of opinion that the speculative nature of the undertakings in hand and their unfinished character would not justify an application to the Public Works Loan Commissioners. The matters in question do not seem to be such as could properly be referred to a Select Committee, or that any useful purpose would be served by doing so. I have no knowledge of the matter adverted to in the last three lines of the question.

PATENTS.

COLONEL **HOWARD VINCENT**: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he proposes to act upon the recommendations of the Select Committee on the Patents Agents Bill, and make new Rules with regard to the control of the Register and for the carrying out of the provisions of the Acts of 1883 and 1888 as regards fees, and in such cases, when the new Rules are likely to be promulgated?

MR. **BRYCE**: No, Sir; I have as at present advised no intention of altering the Rules, because I am of opinion that the various questions relating to the profession of patents, designs, and trade marks agents should be dealt with comprehensively by Parliament. This would appear to have been the view of the Select Committee, who reported a Bill with Amendments, and until it is seen whether legislation is likely to be passed it seems better not to disturb the position by an alteration of the Rules.

NORTH TYRONE REGISTER.

LORD **F. HAMILTON** (Tyrone, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the following facts in connection with the registration of the Parliamentary Division of North Tyrone: that there were 27 appeals by the Nationalist Party from the decisions of the Revising Barrister; that out of these 27 cases, 22 were not only dismissed, but that the Court in dismissing them animadverted strongly on the impropriety of the appeal; that almost all the cases so dismissed were appeals brought in the name of Mr. John Torish, and were dismissed by the Court without argument; that Mr. John Torish is a man of no means, against whom costs cannot be obtained; that the majority of those against whom the appeals were made were Unionist farmers and labourers of small means, who were put to considerable cost in employing solicitors and counsel to preserve their rights to the franchise, which were thus frivolously assailed; and whether he can suggest any action to prevent *bonâ fide* claims being contested by appeals which the

Lord Chief Baron observed were drawn in the teeth of the Act of Parliament ?

Mr. J. MORLEY: I am informed that more than 27 appeals were lodged by Mr. Torish, representing the Nationalist Party, from the decision of the Revising Barrister for North Tyrone. There has not been time to ascertain the precise number of these which were dismissed, but it appears from the Press reports that some of them were dismissed, and also that some observations were made by the members of the Bench, not, as I am advised, on the impropriety of the appeals, but on the form in which the cases were reserved by the Revising Barrister. The Law Officers have no information enabling them to say if they were dismissed without argument, though it appears that some of the cases were fully argued by the hon. and learned Member for Derry. I have no information as to the means of Mr. Torish, or what were the circumstances of the respondents. An appeal from the decision of the Revising Barrister is regulated by Statute, and the Government has no power to interfere with either the Revising Barrister or the Court of Appeal in their administration of the law.

Lord F. HAMILTON: May I ask whether it was contemplated by the Act that electors should be penalised by having their claims frivolously contested ?

Mr. J. MORLEY: I am not answerable for the contemplations of Parliament, and I am not prepared to say or admit that those were frivolous claims, without entering into the merits, nor is it part of my duty to inquire into the matter.

Lord F. HAMILTON: Has the attention of the right hon. Gentleman been called to the remarks of the Chief Baron in *The Freeman's Journal* of the 15th November, 1893, on those very cases ?

Mr. J. MORLEY: No, Sir. I do not remember those remarks; but, in any case, I hope the noble Lord will perceive that it would be most improper for the Executive Government to inquire into such matters.

Mr. SEXTON: Do I understand the right hon. Gentleman to say from the information supplied to him that the animadversions referred to were directed by the Court to the Revising Barrister and not to the appellant ? I would also ask did not the Unionist Party appeal, and were not some of their appeals dismissed ?

Mr. J. MORLEY: It is quite true that the fault found, whatever it was, was not as to the appeal, but as to the form in which these appeals was reserved by the Revising Barrister. As to the Unionist appeals, I really do not know what action was taken.

POLICE PROTECTION IN IRELAND.

Mr. KNOX (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will endeavour to apply in Ireland the practice of Police Authorities in England, by which persons requiring special police protection for their property have to make payments for the service of the policemen; and whether he will state what is the usual arrangement for the board and lodging of constabulary protecting evicted farms who lodge with the new tenant ?

Mr. J. MORLEY: The personal protection of the Constabulary in Ireland is, as a rule, given without charge to the person protected. The person, however, is expected to provide the police with lodging, bedding, and fuel. The question of protection and charge has often been raised, and if it were possible it would, for obvious reasons, be desirable to insist on payment; but, as the protection is mainly given in relation to the disturbed condition of the locality, it has been found inexpedient, as a rule, to require payment as a condition of protection.

Mr. KNOX: The last paragraph of the question has not been answered.

Mr. J. MORLEY: As a rule, new tenants, where they have personal protection, provide nothing but the shelter of a roof.

THE CAVAN CONSTABULARY.

Mr. KNOX: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that since the County Inspector of Constabulary in Cavan resumed duty, after an absence of nearly 12 months, due to illness, frequent complaints have been made as to his treatment of the men on inspections, and as to the partisan organisation of the Force; and when this officer's turn of office will expire ?

MR. J. MORLEY: The Inspector General informs me that no complaints have reached him as regards the treatment of the police in the County Cavan since the resumption of duty by the County Inspector after an absence, on sick leave, of six months. Nor has any such complaint been made to the County Inspector. He has not attained the age at which compulsory retirement can be effected, and will not do so, I am informed, for some years to come.

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY'S DEBENTURES.

MR. KNOX: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies whether all the debentures issued by the British South Africa Company were issued at par; and, if they were issued at a discount, at what discount were they issued?

MR. S. BUXTON: We have no knowledge of the terms on which the debentures have been issued, as, under the Charter, the Government have nothing to do with the matter.

BELFAST TELEGRAPH MESSENGERS.

MR. KNOX: I beg to ask the Postmaster General whether he is aware that telegraph messengers attached to the Belfast Office are fined at the rate of 1s. an hour as punishment for late attendance; that they are messengers paid according to the number of messages delivered each week; and that their average pay is about 6s. weekly; and whether he will reduce the fine to a sum corresponding to the earnings of the boys?

MR. A. MORLEY: The hon. Member appears to have been somewhat misinformed. The fines for telegraph messengers at Belfast for late attendance are at the rate of 8d. an hour, and not 1s. These boys' average earnings for the last quarter were at the rate of 8s. a week, and they rarely fall below 7s. The fines, however, appear to be heavier than at other offices, and I will consider whether they cannot be reduced.

THIRD-CLASS CARRIAGES ON IRISH MAIL TRAINS.

MR. KNOX: I beg to ask the Postmaster General whether, in arranging for future contracts for the conveyance of mails between Dublin and Belfast, provision will be made for the conveyance of third-class passengers by limited mail trains?

MR. A. MORLEY: There is no clause in any existing contract with a Railway Company compelling them to convey third-class passengers by mail trains, and I cannot think that it is the duty of the Post Office to introduce a clause of such a character into a contract for the conveyance of mails.

PORTRUSH LETTER DELIVERY.

MR. J. O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): On behalf of the hon. Member for North Leitrim, I beg to ask the Postmaster General whether he is aware that letters arriving at the Post Office, Portrush, at 8.45 a.m. are not delivered till two and a-half hours afterwards to houses only two minutes' distance from the post office; if there are only two postmen employed for delivery in this town; and if he will see that additional men are employed during the season, so that the delivery may be more rapid, to give time for replies being sent by the mail leaving at 12.5?

MR. A. MORLEY: I find that, owing in a great measure to late arrival of the mails, the morning delivery of letters at Portrush, which should be commenced at 9.25 a.m., is often commenced somewhat later; but it is, nevertheless, completed, as a rule, throughout the town in time for replies being sent by the outgoing mail. The question of giving further assistance during the summer season, when the pressure is greatest, is already under consideration.

THE CASE OF THE "KOWSHING."

MR. BARTLEY: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been drawn to the statement in the Press to-day, on the authority of the Japanese Legation, that the Maritime Court at Shanghai had pronounced in favour of the Japanese in the case of the *Kowshing*, and that the action of the captain of the Japanese ship is held to be justified; and whether Admiral Fremantle has advised the British Government that no claim should be raised against Japan in respect to the *Kowshing* or any property on board?

SIR E. GREY: Since I have seen the paragraph I have asked my right hon. Friend the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he knows of any information received through the Admiralty from Admiral Fremantle, and I am in a position to say that, as far as we are concerned, no official information has been received.

THE MOVEABLE DWELLINGS BILL.

Sir C. W. DILKE: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether the statement in the Memorandum prefixed to the Moveable Dwellings Bill, circulated on the 21st of August, that moveable dwellings are at present not reached by the Sanitary Laws, is well founded, regard being had to Section 9 of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1885?

Mr. SHAW-LEFEVRE: It is not quite accurate to say that moveable dwellings are not reached by the Sanitary Laws. As I think my hon. Friend will see from the Memorandum which I sent him yesterday on this subject, these dwellings are subject to the nuisance provisions of the Public Health Act, but no doubt the facility with which they can be moved from place to place does make it difficult to enforce the provisions.

CUSTOMS STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT.

Mr. MACDONALD: On behalf of the hon. Member for North West Ham, I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether it is contemplated to balance the increased expenditure entailed by the recent creation of superior appointments in the Customs Statistical Department, by delegating a portion of the keeping of Customs warehousing accounts to outdoor officers, and the checking thereof to second-class examining officers; and whether such contemplated change would amount to a nullifying of those provisions of Treasury Minute, 24th March, 1891, that deal with the prospect of second-class examining officers and outdoor officers?

Sir J. T. HIBBERT: No such change as is suggested is or has been in contemplation by the Board of Customs.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to,—

Canal Tolls and Charges Provisional Order (No. 6) (River Lee, &c.) Bill.

Sir E. Grey

Amendments to—

Statute Law Revision Bill [*Lords*], without Amendment.

Land Acts (Ireland),—That they do request that this House will be pleased to commmunicate to their Lordships a Copy of the Report, &c., of the Select Committee appointed by this House in the present Session of Parliament on Land Acts (Ireland).

Lords Message considered:—Printed Copy to be communicated.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. J. MORLEY: It has been represented to me that it will be a great convenience to Members if the House meets at noon to-morrow. I beg, therefore, to move "That the House do meet To-morrow at Twelve of the clock."

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do meet To-morrow at Twelve of the clock."—(*Mr. J. Morley.*)

Question put, and agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (APPROPRIATION) BILL.

SECOND READING.

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Colonel HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central) said, he desired to raise two points connected with the administration of the Board of Trade. The first was in reference to the delay in presenting the Report called for at his instance from the Embassy at Berlin, dealing with the manufacture in German prisons of goods for the English market. The Report, he understood, had been received at the Foreign Office some time since, and the delay in presenting it had hindered the efforts that were being made to restrict the importation of these goods. That importation had been condemned by the Trades Council of London, Edinburgh, Dublin, Huddersfield, and Leeds, and the public were entitled to know the difficulties that might stand in the way of its restriction. In connection with this matter he had also to complain that the right hon. Gentleman had not sent for the Commissioner of a trade journal called the *Hardwareman*, who had made inquiries in Germany on the subject, and who was prepared to give the result of his personal experience. He was sure this gentleman could have put the right hon. Gentleman in possession of more accurate information than the Ambassador at Berlin. At any rate, they were entitled to ask the right hon. Gentleman to make public the Report which the Ambassador had made. The other point to which he wished to call attention was in reference to the administration of the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887. That Act had been productive of a great deal of good, and had stopped to a large extent the importation of foreign goods bearing British marks. In accordance with the recommendation of a Committee, which, in 1890, inquired into the working of the Act, Parliament had placed the duty of instituting prosecutions in the hands of the Board of Trade, and his complaint was of the lax way in which the duty had been carried out. The specific case to which he desired to draw attention was in reference to the recent importation at Leith of 6,000 chisels made in Germany and bearing a Sheffield mark, thus purporting to have been made by the most expert edge-tool artizans in the world. The chisels were seized by the Customs Authorities and sold by auction at very much below their value. This, he held, inflicted serious injury on Sheffield and Birmingham. It supplied the Edinburgh market for some time to come, and it led to the purchasers there being furnished with badly-made articles. His contention was that the Customs Authorities ought to have communicated with the Board of Trade, and that the right hon. Gentleman ought to have inquired whether a prosecution lay against the importer. He asked that the importer's name should be disclosed, believing that its publication would have a deterrent effect. It was the duty of the right hon. Gentleman to be zealous and vigorous in this matter in the interests of British trade, and to endeavour by putting the law in operation to prevent such cases as this occurring in future.

MR. BRYCE said, with reference to the name he had had no notice, and was unable to give it.

COLONEL HOWARD VINCENT said, he had sent a letter to the right hon. Gentleman asking for the name.

MR. BRYCE said, he had received no letter to that effect.

COLONEL HOWARD VINCENT said, the Correspondence Department of the Board of Trade must be as defective as its Executive Department. He had sent the right hon. Gentleman a letter from one of the leading firms connected with this trade, in which the writer showed clearly how much the edge-tool industry in Sheffield was affected by the action taken by the Board of Customs. In sending the right hon. Gentleman that letter he had pointed out that the public mention of the name of the importer would in all probability have a deterrent effect. It was perfectly impossible to suppose that these importers did not know perfectly well how these articles were marked. In all probability they gave the order that the goods should be marked in this manner, and it was, therefore, the bounden duty of the right hon. Gentleman to take vigorous action in the matter. He could not too strongly impress upon the right hon. Gentleman the necessity of devoting his attention to those matters, and of doing what he could to revive that depression which had existed unfortunately for the last two years in almost every branch of home industry. When they found no less than 26 Trade Societies reporting at the present time that trade was bad, when they found that exports of British and Irish produce were £26,500,000 less in the first two months of this year than in the corresponding period of 1890 he held it was the duty of the right hon. Gentleman to pay attention to the wishes and the aspirations of the artizan population in these matters, and to do nothing whatever which could possibly injuriously affect them. The artizan population had a strong feeling that the importation of German convict labour injured them in a very serious manner. He was anxious to hear what the right hon. Gentleman had to say as to why the Report from the Berlin Embassy had not been presented to Parliament, and why, at any rate, the right hon. Gentleman had not responded to his wish that he should see it. The right hon. Gentleman knew his deep interest in the matter, and yet the document had been kept back from him. It had been put away in the pigeon holes of the Foreign Office, probably labelled "not to be presented until Parliament rises." Then if it was too late to inquire into the importation of these chisels at Leith, he at any rate urged the right hon. Gentleman to come to a better understanding with the Board of Customs on the question. The Board of Customs, he believed, was well administered, and its officials were capable of carrying out their duties, but the right hon. Gentleman should not sit quietly by while these articles were being fraudulently imported, but should make vigorous exertions to restrain this traffic in the future. He urged the right hon. Gentleman to do what he could to promote the interests of British trade by bringing the penalty of the law, and the greater penalty of publicity, to bear against those who imported articles fraudulently marked in defiance of Acts of Parliament, and to the detriment of the free labour of this country.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.) said, his hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield had, if he would allow him to say so, wasted a great deal of indignation upon an exceedingly simple matter. He had repeatedly told his hon. Friend that the only reason why the Report obtained from Berlin was not presented was because it was thought better to present it along with Reports from other countries for which the Government had asked. That was a matter of every-day occurrence. It had been the invariable practice, when they had a number of Reports on the same subject, to present them together.

COLONEL HOWARD VINCENT said, the importation of these prison-made goods was mainly, if not entirely, from Germany.

MR. BRYCE said, Prussia was not the only part of the German Empire. Reports were being received from the other German States, as well as from France, and the Report would be much more valuable if they were all published together. He had no reason to believe that he could have obtained any additional information from the Commissioner of the *Hardwareman*, even if he had seen him, and besides, it would have been entirely irregular for him to have had communications of that kind. When a Department wished to have information as to what passed in foreign countries, the proper channel of information was Her Majesty's Representatives there. To pass by those Representatives and go to a private individual would be at variance with the best traditions of the Diplomatic Service. In regard to the administration of the Merchandise Marks Act, he had, since the hon. Gentleman spoke, caused inquiries to be made, and found that a letter had been received at the Board of Trade from the hon. Member, but he was not aware that it contained any request for the names of the consignees. In any case they could not have been given, because the Board of Trade did not know them, and there was not time to communicate with the Commissioners of Customs. He had not the latest statistics of prosecutions with him, but he had seen them recently, and there had been a considerable number. In the particular case referred to his information did not bear out the statement of the hon. Member that the word "Sheffield" was on the goods. The Commissioners informed him that they seized them because they bore the words "Warranted cast steel," implying that they had been made in England. The hon. Member asked why the Board of Trade did not put the law in force, but he did not seem to realise what the provisions of the Act were. The Act enabled the Board to institute prosecutions whether the goods were exposed or offered for sale, or whether they were in possession of the person. These goods were neither exposed nor offered for sale, nor were they in possession of the consignee; therefore, the Board of Trade could not institute a prosecution. The action of the Commissioners of Customs was, as far as he could ascertain, in strict conformity with the law. He had no authority to say to them how they were to dispose of seized goods. He hoped he would always be vigilant in carrying out any duties with which the Legislature had entrusted him. If, in these cases under the Merchandise Marks Act, the Cutlers' Company of Sheffield, a very influential body, had made application for a prosecution, that application would have been very carefully considered by the Board of Trade, but he did not gather that they had done so, and he believed the reason why these applications were not more frequent was that British manufacturers were of opinion that prosecutions often did more harm than good by calling attention to the foreign articles. He expressed no opinion as to whether that was right or wrong, but it was a view which was largely held. While the Department and the Government would be anxious to give the House all possible information, he could not assent to the view that the importation of convict-made goods did any serious injury at present to British trade even in particular instances. The amount of foreign prison-made goods imported was infinitesimal compared with the quantity of goods produced in this country ; but they had promised to get all the information they could, and that information would be presented at the earliest possible moment.

MR. A. C. MORTON (Peterborough) was very sorry to say that on this occasion Supply had been probably worse scamped and rushed through more hastily than in any period during his time, and, of course, that was an additional reason why they should be particular at this stage. As far as they on that side of the House were concerned, they put off a number of matters, both in Committee and on Report, at the special request of the Ministers, and therefore right hon. Gentlemen on the Treasury Bench had no right to complain if hon. Members took the opportunity of mentioning any of these matters to-day. He could not say that the Army and Navy Votes had not been discussed, but with regard to the Civil Service there had been practically no discussion at all. It was well to bear in mind that the expenditure under the Civil Service covered almost every question connected with the social and trade life of this country, and therefore they could, if they had time, have raised many important questions in which the people were interested. They had been deprived of the opportunities for properly considering the matters. There were two ways of discussing the Estimates—one on the policy of the expenditure itself, and the other with regard to the economy. He had endeavoured to make some observation on the economy of the expenditure from time to time, but during this Session he had hardly had a single opportunity of asking the Committee to consider the policy of the expenditure at all. He had always held that at least 10 per cent. of their money was wasted. He thought they might have more efficiency with at least £10,000,000 less spent on the Estimates during the year, and he should be glad if the Government would allow him an opportunity of considering all these Estimates from the economical point of view. He could not complain that Ministers were not present to answer any questions he might be allowed to put, notwithstanding it was at their request he did not raise them in Committee of Supply. He should like to have received some answer from the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War about the case of Surgeon Major Fox. He noticed in the papers that somebody was accused of endeavouring to get this officer out of the way in the same manner as an attempt was made to get rid of Surgeon Major Briggs. Of course, he did not know whether this statement was true or not, but it was his duty to ask the Secretary for War whether it was true or not. The charge was a serious one, and ought to be answered as speedily as possible. He should be out of Order if he were to attempt to consider the question of the House of Lords with regard to their policy, but with regard to the expenses of the House of Lords he desired to say a word or two. He gathered from the Estimates that the other Chamber cost the people of this country over £105,000. There were other sums which were directly placed on the Consolidated Fund, but in the Estimates there was this sum of over £105,000. They were told that the House of Lords paid its own way. That could not be correct, because although he made a mistake in stating the amount of fees received, he found from the corrected Estimate that the amount this year was about £21,000 ; therefore, how any newspaper or anybody else could make it out that the Lords paid their way he did not know. But even if they did take fees these fees came from the people, and, therefore, they had only got to look at the expenditure. What he said himself, without regard to any policy at all, was that this was more than it was worth, and the people of this country ought not to be called upon to spend such a large sum for practically doing the work over again. He might add to that the expense the people were put to in getting through what was practically a second Committee doing the same work over again, and on purely financial grounds he should personally like to see some alteration. They had been told during the last week that it was not right for them to consider the question from the financial point of view, and that if they had a grievance they ought not to attempt to punish the officials in another place because they objected to anything else. Undoubtedly they did not want to punish any officials whatever, and he had no doubt that if any charge were made these officials would be properly pensioned off. But what they said was that it was the regular, ordinary, Parliamentary, and constitutional way of raising objection to anything they desired to object to by refusing Supplies. If he remembered rightly, this House was brought into existence for the purpose of providing Supplies, and only providing them if they approved of the objects. Therefore, if they objected to the way in which the Supplies were spent, their proper policy was to refuse the Supplies, and so get rid of what they objected to. If the Government could find any other way out of the difficulty, that was their business and not his, and whether it was Government or other expenditure that he objected to he should take the constitutional course of objecting to Supply. He desired to ask one or two questions of the Home Secretary, who, unfortunately for the people of this country, was in charge of the Metropolitan Police. He was personally desirous that the police should be handed over to the London County Council or some other Municipal Body as soon as possible; but in the meantime the Home Secretary was responsible for the conduct of their business, and he wanted to ask the right hon. Gentleman, therefore, why he refused to have the police stations in London properly assessed? Speaking with some authority in the matter, he declared they were only assessed at one-half the proper amount, and he should like the Home Secretary to compel his officers to act fairly in regard to these matters. Another question as to which he should have liked some answer from the right hon. Gentleman was as to the fees that were charged to Justices of the Peace on their appointment. The Home Secretary recently sent out a Circular in which he suggested that two guineas should be charged each Magistrate on his being sworn in. He objected very strongly to that charge. At the present moment, so far as England and Scotland were concerned, no Justice of the Peace on his appointment could be legally charged anything beyond 2s. or 3s. He knew they had been charged three, four, and even up to 10 guineas; but that was not a legal charge, and those who had refused to pay had been made Magistrates all the same. Within the last few months the Home Secretary had sent out a Circular in which he practically said to the Benchers that they should fix a fee of two guineas. He objected to their friends being fined two guineas by their own Home Secretary; he objected to a penalty being put upon them because they happened to be appointed upon the nomination of the Radical Party as Radicals. He was very sorry the Home Secretary was not present to answer him. There were one or two other matters to which he should like to direct attention. He wanted to get some assurance from the President of the Board of Trade that he would move a little faster in putting pressure upon the Railway Companies to afford greater facilities to workpeople living in the suburbs of London. He threw on the Minister the responsibility for the fact that some of the Companies were not doing what they ought to do. All that was asked was that passengers with workmen's tickets should be allowed to travel as late as 8 o'clock in the morning. Some of the Companies, including the Great Northern, had made this concession; why were not the Great Eastern and other Companies compelled to do it? The Board of Trade, he was afraid, was too much under the influence of Railway Companies and vested interests. He wanted to know why the Board of Trade gave him notice that, as an administrative act, they would oppose his Return Tickets Bill?

MR. BRYCE: When did that happen?

MR. A. C. MORTON replied, some four or five months ago. He did not ask the Board of Trade their opinion, but they sent him this notice. Of course, he did not desire to make his right hon. Friend personally responsible; he was only treating the Board as a Board. As he had said, he did receive notice that the Board of Trade would oppose his Bill, and he wanted to know why? because the Board of Trade ought to assist him rather than oppose him. Notwithstanding the opposition of the Board of Trade, he had succeeded in getting his tramways clause imposed upon all the London Companies except one, and he hoped the President of the Board of Trade would take care that it was inserted in all the Provisional Orders he had to do with. He thanked the House generally for what they had done, and also the House of Lords, for on this question he found the House of Lords more liberal than the Board of Trade. He thanked Parliament for having assisted him in passing this tramways clause, and preventing Companies imposing additional fares on Sundays and holidays on the workpeople of this country. He wished to address one or two questions to the Foreign Office, and he wished particularly to complain of the grant of £20,000 a year to what was called the British Bechuanaland Railway. Some months ago the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave a distinct promise that, before the Government were committed to this, Parliament should have an opportunity of considering the matter. They were then requested not to delay the holidays by discussing the matter in Committee of Supply; and in these circumstances he asked that the matter might be put off till next Session. As a matter of fact, the Minute relating to this matter was only laid on the Table on the 9th of August, and it was a farce, therefore, to contend that there had been a proper opportunity of considering and discussing the matter. They had not had an opportunity of considering the matter, and were not going to have. He supposed his hon. Friend the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs would say that something must be done or could be done on the responsibility of the Government. That was an old Tory idea, and not a Radical idea. They wanted, before the Government were committed on these matters, to have an opportunity of discussing them, and they had a perfect right to insist upon this. He hoped the time would arrive when an independent Committee from both sides of the House would consider these questions before the Government were allowed to commit themselves and the country. He believed as long ago as 1880 the right hon. Member for Midlothian said that the time would probably come when such an arrangement would have to be made. He did not admit the right of the Government to commit them at all, unless they had got their previous consent. He could not admit that right except in a case of emergency, and this was not one. A Radical Government would find that the Radicals of this country would not allow their money to be squandered on Public Companies and Company promoting in foreign lands. He hoped his hon. Friend would agree to postpone this matter, and he did not think he could do otherwise, as the hon. Gentleman must admit that the promise of the Chancellor of the Exchequer had not been acted upon. He further trusted the Government would not commit the country to any further expenditure in Uganda during the Recess. In this case they had been told that nothing would be done without the sanction of the House, but as a matter of fact there had been no opportunity of discussing the large sum now voted. Unfortunately, some Members of the Cabinet were in favour of a Jingo policy, and so we incurred a large expenditure abroad while refusing to spend money for the improvement of trade and agriculture at home. The Radical Party would have nothing whatever to do with a Jingo policy. They had had too much of it during the present Session. The Government had too often thrown over their own supporters and depended upon the Opposition for their existence, and he warned them that the Radical Party would not put up with this. He hoped they would have an assurance that the Government would not commit them in regard to this railway or as regarded compensation to the Company. The Company had no claim to compensation, for having speculated they must take their chance, and if they had squandered their money they must not look to the ratepayers of this country to make it good for them. He did not see the Postmaster General present, and he should have liked to address one or two questions to the right hon. Gentleman. Complaints had been made that the Postmaster General objected to combination among the men. He had heard that the War Office also objected to combination. He could not understand that at all. He considered, of course, that the workers in those great Government Departments ought not to be allowed to abuse the right of combination; but when the Government admitted the right of workmen outside the Service to combine, he could not see why they should refuse to allow men inside the Service to combine. He would, therefore, like to know from the Postmaster General why he had refused to allow postmen to combine for the purpose of securing what they thought were their rights? With regard to the Brentford Schools' cruelty cases, he desired to say that many hon. Members were desirous of discussing that matter, but could not do so until they got the Report of the special Inspector. He was not sure whether that Report had been issued yet; but on account of the way Supply had been rushed through they had not had an opportunity of discussing the question, and of seeing that the poor boys of those schools were protected from cruelty, whether from nurses or anyone else, in the future. The question of the Christian Brothers might be considered a purely Irish question; but as he happened to be—as a member of the Corporation of London—part owner of the City of Londonderry and the City of Coleraine, he considered it his duty to look into this question of the Christian Brothers. Therefore, he had done what had been done by few Members—he had gone over the schools of the Christian Brothers in Londonderry, within the last fortnight, saw their emblems or pictures, and could not possibly understand why those emblems should be advanced against giving the Brothers the assistance they ought to have from the State. It was said the Roman Catholics were ignorant and were improperly influenced by their priests; but if that were so, the responsibility rested on the Government until they provided adequate means for the education of the children. It might be said that education had been made compulsory in Ireland. But it was nonsense to talk of compulsory education in a country where there was not sufficient schools, and where the Government would not assist

those who were willing to provide the schools. Speaking, therefore, with some knowledge of the matter, he trusted the Government would before long do all that was necessary to complete the system of primary education in Ireland, whereby every child in Ireland would be afforded the facilities for education which were enjoyed by every child in Great Britain. He desired to say a few words on the Consolidated Fund Bill. He did not at all like this system of appropriations in aid; he preferred to have the money specifically voted by the House of Commons, and he was afraid that the system of appropriations in aid would be so extended by successive Governments that the House of Commons would soon have no Supply at all to consider. In conclusion, he would say that he hoped they would never again have this scamping through Supply which had been adopted this Session. The first duty of hon. Members was to consider the expenditure of public money, and as on that expenditure rested, to a large extent, the comfort and happiness of the people, they ought to be allowed full opportunities for considering it.

Mr. BRYCE, replying to the remarks of the hon. Member on the subject of workmen's trains, said the Board of Trade were as anxious as any body of men could be to provide full facilities for working men in the matter of cheap trains. They had, by continual representations to the Railway Companies, obtained nearly everything which, under their statutory powers, they could at present obtain, and had made representations to the Companies to induce them to go even beyond what their statutory powers entitled the Board of Trade to ask. He could assure the House that the Board of Trade felt the hardship that was inflicted on workmen in the matter, and they were anxious to do everything in their power to improve the present state of things.

Mr. A. C. MORTON: What about return tickets?

Mr. BRYCE said, he knew nothing personally about the Return Tickets Bill; but if any such notice of opposition had been given he suggested that it must have been merely in the belief that if the Railway Companies were pressed any further they would withdraw the facilities already given, and which the Board of

Trade had not the statutory power to enforce.

Mr. A. C. MORTON: With regard to tramways?

Mr. BRYCE replied that in the matter of tramways the Board of Trade had done all they possibly could in the direction indicated by the hon. Member, and would continue the policy they had initiated.

The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. S. Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said, he desired to answer his part of the general catechism of the hon. Member for Peterborough. With regard to the Bechuanaland Railway, he submitted that the opportunity promised by the Chancellor of the Exchequer for discussing the matter had reference to discussion in Committee of Supply, and the contract between the Company and the Government had been laid on the Table three weeks ago. That opportunity had been afforded, though the time had been unavoidably curtailed this year, so that no promise of the Government had been broken in regard to that matter.

Mr. A. C. MORTON asked whether the hon. Gentleman meant to say that the Government, in taking up the time that should be devoted to Supply, had not deprived hon. Members of discussing this matter?

Mr. S. BUXTON said, the only opportunity that could be given for discussing a matter of this kind was in Supply; and though that opportunity had not perhaps occurred in any adequate sense this year, owing to causes with which the hon. Member was familiar, no complaint could be brought against the Government in regard to it. As to the contention that the guarantee should be submitted to the House before it was practically ratified by the Government, such a course might be possible under a system for a general Committee to discuss colonial and foreign relations; but at present the only practicable course was that the Government should carry out the agreement on their own responsibility; and if the House should choose to reverse the decision, they could only bow to the opinion of the House. He fully believed that, instead of the railway being the cause of any additional charge being thrown upon the taxpayers of the United Kingdom, it would by aiding in the development of the country be a benefit to them in the future.

Mr. A. C. MORTON said, that he did not agree with the hon. Gentleman in that supposition.

Mr. KNOX (Cavan, W.) said, he agreed with his hon. Friend the Member for Peterborough that the Chancellor of the Exchequer last year gave a pledge that the House would be given the opportunity of discussing this question with regard to the Bechuanaland Railway. The question was perhaps of less importance in one way, as the matter could be raised year by year, and he thought it only right that notice should be given to persons who might be inclined to invest in the shares of the railway; that a large number of Members objected to the scheme, and would protest against it every year for the 10 years the guarantee would last. But he rose principally to call attention to a matter connected with Irish affairs, and which deeply concerned a large number of his constituents. Under an Act passed in 1883 certain light railways were constructed in Ireland with a guarantee of 5 per cent. to the shareholders upon the baronies through which those light railways ran. By that Act the Treasury was also to give a guarantee of 2 per cent., not to the shareholders, but to the baronies—that was to say, the baronies paid the shareholders 5 per cent., and that the baronies received from the Treasury 2 per cent. That system was from the beginning a most wasteful one. If the Treasury guarantee had been given directly to the shareholders, it would have brought in £66, and therefore the baronies, after the balance of 3 per cent., only got 33 per cent., so that they were really given a guarantee of a far larger sum than was supposed. It was a wasteful system, but the greater number of the light railways were built under it, and it had brought a very heavy charge on some of the poorest districts of the country. In the County of Leitrim, near his own Division, where the valuation was very high—much higher than in the South—the people were paying 2s. in the £1 county cess for a railway line. He asked English Members to consider what that meant. He saw nothing to compare to it in Great Britain, and naturally the people complained. There had been talks of a strike against county cess, and he would not be surprised if there were strikes against the county cess. There was one way out of the difficulty, which occurred to the Directors of the railways so far back as six years ago: That was, commuting the Treasury payment by a capital sum, and reducing the capital proportionately with the consent of the shareholders. The Directors pressed this claim on the Treasury six years ago. He knew that four years ago Lord Kingscourt and a deputation representing the different railways came to London and pressed this scheme on the Treasury. The Member for Leeds (Mr. Jackson) then said that in the existing condition of Government business they could not bring in the Bill which was necessary, and he added that he had no objection in principle to the scheme. In 1893 he (Mr. Knox) and some of his friends introduced a Bill on the subject. He frankly admitted that that Bill did not meet with the general consent of all the Companies, but it passed its Second Reading, and could get no further. He made it his business immediately afterwards to see if a scheme could not be devised which would meet with the approval of all the interests concerned. He saw a gentleman in London who represented the greater part of the share capital, and saw the Directors of the Cavan line. They saw the Treasury officials on the matter, and he had to say that although the Irish Members had to find fault with the Treasury several times, yet in this matter they had been treated by the Secretary to the Treasury and the officials with the greatest courtesy and with a strong desire to afford the necessary relief if they could do so. In the end a Government Bill was drafted and introduced into the House, which he believed would have reduced the charge on those unfortunate districts by about one-third. That was a very important matter; but in consequence of the action of the present Chief Secretary, the poor farmers in these districts would have to pay 8d. in the £1 more county cess than they otherwise would have to pay. It was a permissive Bill. Nothing could be done under it except by Order in Council. The consent of the Lord Lieutenant, the consent of the Treasury, the consent of the Company, and the consent of the Grand Jury were all necessary, and when he stated that fact he thought it was plainly evident the Bill could inflict no injustice on anybody. The Member for South Tyrone, who represented the district through which the Clogher Valley line ran, was in favour of the Bill, and so also was the Member for South Antrim, who was a Director and large shareholder in the line. He (Mr. Knox) believed there was not even one Irish Member, be he Tory, Unionist, or Nationalist, who had a word to say against the Bill. Under those circumstances, it was not to be wondered at that the Bill passed through all its stages in that House without opposition. Afterwards some gentlemen came over from Dublin to protest against it. He did not know what their protest was; it was made in private, and there was no opportunity of answering it. He wished to put this extraordinary fact on record that those gentlemen who came over—those Dublin stockjobbers—had been able to do more to move the Irish administration than all the Irish Members of all sections. The Bill had passed the House of Commons, and if there had not been a House of Lords it would now be the law of the land. If the House of Lords had been ended, as the Chief Secretary said he wanted to have it ended, his constituents would have now been relieved of a considerable portion of the burden they had to bear. The Bill had gone to the House of Lords, but it had got no further, because, although the name of the Chief Secretary was on the back of it, he had used his influence to prevent it going any further. He felt keenly about this matter. He asserted that this was a discreditable business. It was a most unfortunate and regrettable fact that a Bill supported by every Irish Member should not have been pressed on because a mere handful of Dublin stockbrokers had brought objections to the Bill which they had not dared to put forward in the public Press.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. J. MORLEY, Newcastle-upon-Tyne): The hon. and learned Member has used a very strong expression for which he has only been able to give a weak justification, or no justification at all. He used the expression "discreditable." I do not know what view the hon. and learned Member takes of what is creditable or discreditable to a Minister, but I think that "discreditable" is a rather strong expression to use unless the hon. and learned Member is able to back it up by some more substantial justification than he has been able to give to the House. He said that I used my influence to prevent this Bill from passing in the House of Lords, because pressure had been put upon me by some stock-jobbers from Dublin. What kind of authority has the hon. and learned Member for making any such statement? As far as I know, no pressure has been brought to bear upon any Member of the Government by any set of stock-jobbers in Dublin. I have seen no stock-jobbers from Dublin. I do not believe I know any stock-jobbers in Dublin, and I do not know that I should be any the worse if I did. What are the facts? The Bill was introduced into this House last week, and undoubtedly passed through all its stages, and was sent up to another place. The hon. and learned Member proceeded to attach some odium to the House of Lords in this matter, and also made an attack on myself for having used my influence to prevent the Bill from passing through the other House. I take the responsibility, and I have to entirely relieve another place from any blame in the matter. At the time that the Bill passed its Second Reading I was not aware that there were considerable numbers of persons interested in these financial proposals to whom the Bill was unsatisfactory. But knowing that, the obvious course was to keep back the Bill until an opportunity was afforded to those persons to submit their objections. I do not know how far the hon. and learned Member was literally accurate in stating that all the Irish Members in the House are in favour of the Bill. But, even if it were absolutely true, that is not enough. A Bill of this kind being objected to by persons possessing substantial interests, it is clearly my duty not to allow the measure to be hurried on and a step to be taken which may afterwards be regretted. No substantial injury will be done by postponing the Bill. This is a Treasury affair. But, with the approval of the Treasury, at the very beginning of next Session a Committee shall be appointed to examine the proposals in the Bill. This will take a very short time. There will be very little delay. The Bill will go through the Committee with or without amendment, and will then pass the two Houses without any loss of time. It seems to me that the persons interested will find themselves without any substantial injury. I hope that the hon. and learned Member will feel that he has used language which is too strong in regard to myself, and will see that in the action I have taken I have been doing my best for all parties concerned.

Mr. KNOX explained that he did not mean the word "discreditable" to apply personally to the Chief Secretary. He merely meant that it was curious that the views of a few financial gentlemen from Dublin should have more influence with the right hon. Gentleman than all the Irish Members.

Sir R. TEMPLE (Surrey, Kingston) said, it appeared to him that the House was much indebted to the Secretary to the Treasury for the prompt and efficient manner in which the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee had been carried out in regard to appropriations in aid. These appropriations in aid were becoming of great importance, amounting now to £7,750,000, which was 10 per cent. on the total expenditure voted by the House. The Auditor and Controller General was right in recommending that these appropriations in aid should be distributed in the Appropriation Act. Of course, it was not expected that the Government would carry out the change in the present measure, but the Treasury had carried out the alteration with its usual promptitude and efficiency. He would only suggest that in future the manner in which the figures were presented should be altered, so as to show the separate items under each head of service.

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS: I desire to draw the attention of the House to the Vote on the Public Record Office. That Office contains a large mass of documents relating to Wales, which are uncalendared and unindexed. At the present rate a very long time must elapse before the necessary work of calendaring these manuscripts has been completed. This question is entirely apart and distinct from the calendaring of ancient manuscripts in the Welsh language. I have to acknowledge the fair and kindly spirit in which the Financial Secretary to the

Treasury has met us in regard to that branch of the work. All I ask him to do now is in any future appointment that may be made at the Public Record Office to consider the claims of Wales. I am informed that neither in the Public Record Office nor the British Museum is there a single official who knows enough Welsh to understand the place names and other Welsh words which occur in these documents preserved at the Public Record Office. Educationists in Wales constantly call for the production of a good Welsh history. Without disparaging in any way the efforts of those literary Welshmen who have in the past written histories of their country, I may say that there is at the present time no Welsh history written from the modern critical standpoint. Only the other day one of the most distinguished historians in the country lamented this fact. He said that if he wanted to know the relations between Owen Glendower and the Pope he knew where to find the materials; if he wanted to know the relation of the Welsh Chieftain with the King of France he knew where to lay his hand upon the necessary information; he could even discover his relations with the Spanish pirates; but when he came to the relations which existed between him and the Court of England, he was entirely at a loss for the necessary material. I am aware that complaints may be justly made from other parts of the country as well as from Wales with regard to the slowness of work at the Record Office, which appears to be overcrowded with documents and undermanned with officials. But the need of Wales is a special need, and a good history of Wales cannot possibly be forthcoming until the materials to which I have referred have been collected together and indexed. To show the real interest that is taken in this question, I may mention that a private Society has undertaken the publication of specimens of the Ruthin Court Rolls, probably the finest set of Court Rolls in existence. They throw a flood of light upon the social usages of the people during the Middle Ages, and yet it has been left for a Welsh Society, which contains several Members sitting on both sides of this House, to undertake the expense and the work of publishing these documents. No better proof can possibly be given of the practical interest which is taken in the matter or of the genuineness of the appeal that I am now making to the right hon. Gentleman. At present we only ask him that he will carefully consider in any future appointment that may be made the claims of Wales, and that during the Recess, or early next year, he will consent to meet a deputation of Welsh educationists to consider the practical steps to be taken to carry out the object they have in view.

THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Sir J. T. HIBBERT, Oldham): I can assure my hon. Friend that I appreciate the friendly spirit in which this matter has been brought before the House, and I promise to take an early opportunity to confer with the Keeper of the Record Office on the subject. The Welsh Records will, however, have to take their turn with other very valuable Papers in the Record Office. I hope that arrangements will be made which will be satisfactory to the hon. Member.

MR. LITTLE (Whitehaven) said, he desired to call attention to the phrase in the Appropriation Bill which sets forth that the Commons "cheerfully granted" the Supplies for the year. With respect to the vast majority of the items dealt with in the Bill, he offered no objection to them; but he wanted to point out to the Government why it was that, as a Liberal Member, he objected to the special item for the salaries of the officers of the House of Lords? They had had from the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Chief Secretary for Ireland two arguments with respect to this sum for the services of the Peers——

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Gentleman is out of Order. It is entirely out of Order to allude to the constitution of the House of Lords upon the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, or to any action that the Lords have taken with respect to any Bill that has been before Parliament. That is an ordinary Rule of Parliament. There have been previous occasions on which it has been held to be out of Order to make any attack upon the action of the other House on the Second Reading of this Bill. The hon. Member would be in Order if he is prepared to say that the number of officers who discharge the business of the House of Lords is more than sufficient for the purpose, or that the sum with which they are remunerated is more than adequate. No reference to the action of the House of Lords upon any Bill that has come before them would be in Order.

Mr. LITTLE: I think, Sir, if you will just remember from the words which I have addressed to you at this moment——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Gentleman has clearly indicated his intention, and I must inform him that he is out of Order.

Mr. LITTLE: Perhaps you will allow me to say, Mr. Speaker, that I had not referred to any Bill, and did not intend to——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Gentleman had distinctly indicated his intention to refer to what had been said by Members of the Government upon the subject of the House of Lords.

Mr. LITTLE: I was going to refer, Sir, to the fact that the Chief Secretary had said that to object to the expenses of the House of Lords was a trumpery matter. That is the point upon which I was going to address the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is the very point upon which I rule the hon. Gentleman to be out of Order. The right hon. Gentleman did not say that these expenses are trumpery matters. What he did say was that this was a trumpery case on which to hang a cause so great, and that if that grave issue were to be raised it should be raised in some more proper and constitutional form than merely to refuse to grant the salaries of the officers of the House of Lords.

Mr. LITTLE: If you, Sir, rule, as I understand you do, that one cannot object to these salaries being voted by the House of Commons, of course I accept your ruling. But as I understood it, Mr. Speaker, your objection was to one's discussing the action or policy of the House of Lords, and that is what I do not intend to do. The point to which I wished to draw attention was this—that as a Representative of a constituency which objects to these expenses for the House of Lords being granted by this House, I was prepared to vote against the Appropriation Bill as a whole unless the Government would give a promise that this item for the House of Lords would not appear in next year's Appropriation Bill. Of course, Sir, if you rule that I am out of Order, I should not seek to pursue the question. I was not, however, going in any way to refer to the House of Lords or their policy, but simply to deal with the question whether the appropriation of money for the House of Lords was a desirable object.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member cannot move the omission of an item in the Appropriation Bill, and therefore he is out of Order.

Mr. LITTLE: I was simply raising the question as to whether this item for the Lords should appear in the Appropriation Bill at a future time, because, unless the Government will state that it shall not, I should be prepared to vote against the whole Appropriation Bill. If you rule, Sir, that that is out of Order I must at once bow to your ruling.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already expressed my ruling very distinctly, that any allusion to the action of the House of Lords on any Bill which has passed this House would be entirely out of Order. If the hon. Member intends to mulct the House of Lords for any action they have taken, I repeat that that would be entirely out of Order.

Mr. LITTLE: Then, Sir, I shall draw attention to another matter—namely, the action of the Government with respect to Bills which have passed through this House. I wish especially in this connection to mention the Employers' Liability Bill, and to ask the Government what steps they intend to take. I should like to have from them some definite statement as to whether they intend to re-introduce an Employers' Liability Bill next Session?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry again to come into collision with the hon. Member, and to rule that he is out of Order. It is not in Order upon the Appropriation Bill to refer to any legislation for next Session.

*Mr. HUMPHREYS-OWEN (Montgomeryshire) said, he desired to draw attention to the grants for University Colleges in Great Britain. He did so because he imagined that some misconception existed in some part of the country as to the extent and nature of the work which was done by these Colleges in Wales. There was some suggestion that the country did not receive full value for the £12,000 a year now voted for this purpose in Wales. The misconceptions to which he referred were divided into three. The first was that those Colleges situated in Wales were not really Welsh Colleges—that was to say, that though they attracted a certain number of students from Wales on the whole their students came from other parts of the United Kingdom, and that, therefore, these funds to provide education might just as well be spent in England or in Scotland, as in Wales. As he was connected officially with two of the three Colleges, and had some knowledge of the working of the third, he was able to say that that was not the case. There were, it was true, a certain number of students from England and Scotland, and other parts of the United Kingdom in these Colleges, but the great preponderance of students were Welsh. So far as it was possible for institutions of higher education to be distinctively national, they were Welsh Colleges and not English, in the same way as the Colleges in Edinburgh and Glasgow were Scottish institutions, and not English institutions. In the course of the Debates on the Report of the Estimates, it was suggested that there was no certain information obtainable as to the nationality of the students in the different Colleges, but he was in a position to state that at Aberystwith and Bangor, careful Registers were kept, and that they showed that the large majority of students were Welsh. He had not been able to get the actual figures for Aberystwith, but those for Bangor he had. It appeared from them that there had been 513 students since the College was founded who were either of Welsh parentage or came from Wales itself, and only 124 who were from England or other parts of the Empire; and he knew that the figures of Aberystwith would show a similar, if not a larger, proportion of Welsh students. Though it would be unnecessary to go through a list of those who had profited by the teaching of these institutions it would be acknowledged that it was something to have produced, as Aberystwith had done, the Patronage Secretary to the Treasury—whose name he only gave as an instance of the men sent forth by the Welsh Colleges. And as to the number of students in the Welsh Colleges, it was said that the number was smaller than the number who attended similar Colleges in England and Scotland. The English Colleges no doubt showed a large number of students on their books, but these were obtained by counting in continuation students and extension students. But if these English and Scottish Colleges included students of that kind, it would be only fair to give credit to the Welsh Colleges for students who attended in very large numbers courses of extension lectures which these Colleges had been giving for many years. If they took as a real test of the work—the University character of the work—the numbers of students who attended as day students, they would find that Welsh Colleges had no cause whatever to be ashamed of their numbers as compared with those who attended the English Colleges. In England and Scotland—excluding London—the average attendance of students of that class in the Colleges was 355, whereas in Wales the corresponding number was 227. If they took the population of England and Scotland, and compared it with the population of Wales, they would see that there was a far larger proportion of day students attending Welsh Colleges in proportion to population than those who attended the English Colleges. Then, again, taking the other test given in the Blue Book of the number of students attending two or more courses of lectures or attending for more than 125 hours in the course of the academical year, he found that the average number of students, under these figures, were in England and Scotland 197, whereas the corresponding average in Wales was 207. That was actually a larger average attendance of students taking the longer courses in Wales than in Great Britain. He was not prejudging the question as to the value of extension lectures or of evening lectures, but he was pointing out that the proportion of students receiving University and higher education in the Welsh Colleges excelled rather than fell short of the corresponding proportion in the Colleges of England and Scotland. He excluded London, because King's and University Colleges had been working for 60 years, and had the huge population of the Metropolis to draw on as well as the population of the United Kingdom. Notwithstanding that, even for London, the figures were not so very much greater, so far as he could judge, than those for Wales. Unfortunately King's College did not issue Returns in such a form as to show the courses taken by the University students, the figures for the school and the College being lumped together. University College, however, gave 770 day students and 458 who took three or more courses. Then it had been suggested that the Welsh Colleges were over-staffed. If efficient higher education were to be given a large and varied staff of Professors and other teachers must be provided in the different branches of the various Faculties. Judged by that standard the Welsh Colleges were, if anything, under rather than over-staffed, and the actual amount of work done by the Professors and lecturers was very great. Then in regard to the proportion taking degrees to the total number of University students, judged by that test the Welsh Colleges and Owen's College stood far and away at the head of the list, the proportion for the English and Scotch Colleges being 66 per cent., and for the Welsh and Owen's 90 per cent. What he had said would be sufficient to show the House that at all events for this grant the country received thorough value for its money. He would only add that the incredulity shown as to the nature of the work done in the Colleges seemed to be a part of the general ignorance of Members opposite of matters affecting the Principality. On behalf of the Welsh Colleges he cordially invited those Members who were interested in Higher Education to go down to visit these Colleges, and they would then see for themselves that the work done there, both socially and intellectually, was at least as good as that done by their sister rivals throughout the Kingdom.

*Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) said, he could not let the Debate close without making reference to the promises given that the claims of the Highland crofters would be dealt with. He must protest against the treatment of the crofters by the Government, and hoped they would take an early opportunity of redeeming their pledges. He was sorry the Lord Advocate was absent, for he desired to point out the great need for the appointment in the Highlands of Sheriffs, Sheriff Substitutes, Sheriff Clerks, and Procurators Fiscal, who could speak Gaelic. At present many of them had no knowledge whatever of that language. He should also have been glad to hear from the Secretary for Scotland whether he had made demands on the Treasury or Admiralty for increased means to deal with trawlers which were causing so much destruction to the fisheries on the coast of Scotland, and especially in the Highlands. Perhaps the Financial Secretary to the Treasury would state why the rates paid by occupants of apartments in Royal Palaces only amounted to £1,350, the same as last year. The general experience was that rates increased—they certainly did not diminish; and he should be glad to know why there had been no increase in the valuation of the apartments occupied in the Palaces? In regard to the exemption from rates of houses occupied by foreign Representatives, he would have no objection to that if our Representatives abroad were treated in the same way and likewise exempted from payment of rates. The sum expended on Royal Parks this year was £90,000, and against that the item for sale of venison, &c., &c., was only £301. Surely there must be something radically wrong. Then £3,500 was charged for additional furniture, whilst no account was taken of the discarded furniture. Some statement of it should be given. In conclusion, he again expressed a hope that the Government would see justice done to the Highland crofters.

*Major JONES (Carmarthen, &c.) wished to impress on the Representative of the Board of Trade the importance of doing something during the Recess in the way of raising the standard of education for master mariners and mates intending to enter the Merchant Navy. In this country they had, for the last 40 years, been practically marking time—certainly they had not been making progress like other countries. They were really at the foot of the ladder among the commercial nations of the world in regard to this matter. They could not help being pressed by foreign countries in the way of bounties and subventions, but education was a matter entirely in our own control. The right hon. Gentleman might do something on the petitions of the Shipmasters' Association, a body numbering some 9,000 men.

Sir W. LAWSON (Cumberland, Cockermouth) said, he understood from the Speaker's ruling that they could not discuss the action of the House of Lords on the Vote of £41,595 for the House of Lords' officers. Would it be in Order to move to omit the amount of the Vote?

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot move to omit an item on the Appropriation Bill. The Bill is to appropriate the Supplies already granted. If the hon. Member thinks that the number of clerks in the House of Lords is excessive or that their salaries are too high, he would be in Order in discussing that. But, as I stated before most explicitly, it is a common and well-known ruling from the Chair that to question any action the House of Lords may have taken in reference to a Bill or to animadvert on the position of that Chamber in the Constitution is out of Order on the Appropriation Bill.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th instant, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned at a quarter
before Seven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

Friday, 24th August 1894.

The House met at Twelve of the clock.

QUESTIONS.

THE ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.

MR. KENNEDY (Kildare, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the small proportion of officers, and especially staff officers, of the Royal Irish Constabulary who are Catholics, as compared with the overwhelming Catholic majority of the Irish population; whether, in Dublin Castle, the Inspector General and three assistants are Protestants; whether, at the depôt, the commandant, adjutant, riding master, medical officer, apothecary, and the four company officers are all Protestants; whether the four Divisional Commissioners and seven of the eight officers attending on them are also Protestants; whether 32 out of the 36 County Inspectors and the Police Inspector of Belfast are Protestants, while out of 224 District Inspectors of Police in Ireland but 44 are Catholics; whether he is aware that the seven sergeants in Dublin Castle and the four clerks in the commandant's office receiving extra pay are also Protestants; and will he take steps during the Recess to revise the present system of appointment in the Royal Irish Constabulary?

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. J. MORLEY, Newcastle-upon-Tyne): The statements in this question are generally correct. I understand that two Roman Catholic District Inspectors have recently passed the examination for the position of County Inspector, and will be the next to receive promotion to the latter rank. Of the 224 District Inspectors 45 are Roman Catholics. I may also observe that the Deputy Inspector General is a Catholic, and that four of the depôt officers are of the same religion. Of the nine sergeants employed in the Constabulary office who receive extra pay three are Catholics. It is true, no doubt, that the proportion of Catholics in the higher ranks of the Force is small, and I may say I have already given some attention to the matter, which is one not free from much difficulty. I shall look into the question again during the Recess, and see whether any modification of the existing arrangements is practicable.

OFFENCES ON THE HIGH SEAS.

MR. TANKERVILLE CHAMBERLAYNE (Southampton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will consider the advisability of proposing some alteration of the law whereby the ratepayers at seaport towns are made responsible for the cost of prosecuting persons charged with offences committed on the high seas who happened to be landed there?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. ASQUITH, Fife, E.): I am aware of some difficulty arising from the cause mentioned in the hon. Member's question. I will look into the matter, and consult the Treasury.

FLOATING DERELICTS.

Mr. MACDONA (Southwark, Rotherhithe): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the Report of the Board of Trade and Admiralty Commission on Floating Derelicts will be published during the Recess and distributed to Members?

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.): Yes, Sir; this Report will be presented either to-day or to-morrow in dummy form in order that it may be distributed during the Recess.

PRIVATE POST-CARDS.

Mr. BENSON (Oxfordshire, Woodstock): I beg to ask the Postmaster General whether his attention has been called to a letter by the hon. Member for Canterbury in *The Times* of yesterday; and whether it is the fact, as alleged in that letter, that the late Mr. Fawcett, as Postmaster General, was opposed to the proposal to allow the public to use private cards of their own as post-cards by putting halfpenny stamps on them?

***The POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. A. Morley, Nottingham, E.): My attention has been called to the letter referred to. I stated in the House during the discussion of the Post Office Estimates that Mr. Fawcett and every subsequent Postmaster General had been favourable to the proposal that the public should be allowed to use their own cards, with halfpenny stamps attached, as post-cards. Mr. Fawcett stated in the House of Commons on the 17th of July, 1882, that he was glad to say that he thought the difficulties in the way of allowing cards to be sent as post-cards with adhesive stamps could be got over, and, from documents I have seen in the Department, I am able to state that he was personally favourable to the proposal. No doubt he and other Postmasters General, in consequence of difficulties and objections for which neither they nor their Department were responsible, have stated, when speaking of the Governments of which they were Members, that they were unable to carry out the change.

Mr. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): I think that I have some reason to complain of the hon. Member putting the question down in the way he has, because it is not strictly accurate. I have not alleged anything of the kind. With the permission of the House I will read a letter sent to me by the late Mr. Raikes.

Mr. BENSON: I beg to withdraw any imputation that I may have made upon the hon. Gentleman.

Mr. HENNIKER HEATON: Yes; but I must explain it now. The letter I received from Mr. Raikes was as follows:—

> "August 10th, 1889.
>
> "Dear Sir,—I am desired by Mr. Raikes to acknowledge the receipt of your post-card as to the question of permitting the public to affix stamps to their own post-cards, stating that he had given you reason to hope that he would grant permission to do so, and asking when he would be able to make an announcement on the subject. Mr. Raikes thinks that this impression must be due to some misapprehension, and he desires me to call your attention to his answer to your question on that subject of November 20th, 1888, in which he stated that the proposal had been carefully considered by Mr. Fawcett and not deemed expedient. Consideration has been given as promised to the question, but no variation to the existing system has been suggested which could be advantageously adopted. For further answer he desires me to refer you to his replies to questions on this subject put by Mr. Cochrane Baillie in the the House of Commons on June 27th and July 18th, in the former of which he stated that he could not hold out any expectation that it would be possible to adopt the suggestion.
>
> "I am, yours faithfully,
> George C. Herbert."

In the report in *Hansard*, in 1888, the Postmaster General said, in reply to a question put by me, that the question of allowing ordinary cards bearing a halfpenny postage stamp to pass as post-cards was carefully considered by the late Mr. Fawcett, and that it was not then deemed expedient to sanction such an arrangement. In the following year in another answer, the right hon. Gentleman said there would be the greatest difficulty——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! I think the hon. Gentleman is travelling rather outside a personal explanation. I do not understand that the allegation of the hon. Member for Woodstock is a very serious one, and the hon. Member is not entitled to go into the whole circumstances.

Mr. HENNIKER HEATON: Then I will ask the Postmaster General whether his predecessor stated that it was impossible to introduce the new Regulation without serious loss ?

Mr. A. MORLEY : I believe that it is correct that Mr. Raikes, in the letter of August 10, refers to a statement that he made on July 18, stating that he could not hold out any hope that it would be possible to adopt the proposed alteration. All I have to say is that I am very glad that the present Government have been able to do what Mr. Raikes—not because he was disinclined to do it himself, but on account of the views of the Treasury—said was impossible.

WAGES ON THE CROWN FARM AT SHIMPLING.

Mr. EVERETT (Suffolk, Woodbridge) : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will endeavour to assure that when ordinary work is resumed after harvest on the Crown Farm, at Shimpling, Suffolk, wages shall be raised to 12s. a week in the case of all able-bodied men, and this without waiting for them to ask it ? I beg, further, to inquire whether the right hon. Gentleman is aware that the wages of the labourers on this farm—the men not being herdsmen or stockmen—is only 10s. a week, and that they have applied to the bailiff for an increase, but been unable to obtain it ?

The SECRETARY to the TREASURY (Sir J. T. Hibbert, Oldham) : I have no doubt that the fact as stated by my hon. Friend is correct, but I am informed that they have not made any application for an increase. I am sorry I cannot assent to the proposal contained in the question. It would be irregular for me to give a pledge of the kind referred to in the absence of an application from the men concerned, who should, if they have any complaint, address the Commissioner of Woods and Forests in the regular manner.

Mr. EVERETT : The men assure me that they did make an application to the bailiff.

*__Mr. WEIR__ (Ross and Cromarty) inquired whether, if the men ask for an advance, care will be taken that they are not dismissed for so doing ?

Sir J. T. HIBBERT : I hope so ; I shall do all in my power to prevent it.

Mr. A. C. MORTON (Peterborough): What is the meaning of a "Crown farm at Shimpling," and is it the fact that the Government are carrying on a farming business there, and sweating the poor labourers ?

Sir J. T. HIBBERT : This is a farm which the Crown has not been able to let. If my hon. Friend can find us a tenant for it we shall be very glad.

Mr. A. C. MORTON : As that offer has been made, perhaps my right hon. Friend will tell me what is the rent ?

Sir J. T. HIBBERT : I do not know.

THE SCOTCH COAL STRIKE.

Mr. PAUL (Edinburgh, S.) : May I ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can give the House any information as to the present position of the dispute in the Scotch coal trade, and whether he has intervened ?

Mr. BRYCE : The Board of Trade have not intervened because they have not found that any fitting opportunity has arisen at which its intervention would be likely to accelerate a settlement of the dispute. I have, of course, information regarding the present position, but I am sorry to say that none of it is such as would be, in my judgment, likely to have a good effect if communicated to the House at this moment. I may, however, express my earnest hope that the masters will take the earliest opportunity of meeting the men with the view of discussing the best means—fair to both parties—of putting an end to a dispute which is causing such widespread distress.

THE WAR IN COREA.

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the importance of British interests involved, Her Majesty's Government intend to increase the strength of the British squadron in Corean waters ?

The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir E. Grey, Northumberland, Berwick) : I have received no notice of the question, which it is therefore impossible to answer with precision. The Foreign Office have no reason to suppose that the squadron is at all insufficient, or that any opinion to that effect has been expressed by the authorities on the spot.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I sent the notice to the Foreign Office. May I ask whether the Under Secretary has any information as to the statements in to-day's papers to the effect that a great European Power is sending eight further vessels to Corean waters?

SIR E. GREY: I have not yet seen the statement in the papers.

GERMAN CHISELS.

COLONEL HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he will give the names of the consignees of the 6,000 German chisels recently seized at Leith, fraudulently marked as English goods, having regard to the strong presumption that they were so marked by order of the importers?

MR. BRYCE: Having communicated with the Commissioners of Customs, they inform me that they do not desire to give the names of the consignees of the chisels. It would be undesirable, in the absence of evidence that the consignees were parties to the fraud, to publish their names.

COLONEL HOWARD VINCENT: Am I not justified in stating that no Sheffield firm was concerned in this contraband importation?

MR. BRYCE: I have no information whatever on the point.

PAUPER SCHOOLS INQUIRY.

SIR C. W. DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether the list purporting to contain the names of the Committee appointed by the Local Government Board to inquire into the management of pauper schools, published this morning, is correct?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. SHAW-LEFEVRE, Bradford, Central): The list in the papers to-day is correct as far as it goes, but it is not complete. It will, therefore, be convenient if I state all the names of the Committee. They are:—Mr. Mundella (Chairman), Sir John Gorst, Mr. Lyulph Stanley, Mrs. Barnett (wife of Canon Barnett), Rev. Brook Lambert (Rector of Greenwich), Dr. Russell Reynolds (President of the Royal College of Physicians), and Mr. W. Vallance (clerk of the Whitechapel Board of Guardians). The following are the terms of Reference:—

> "To inquire into the existing systems for the maintenance and education of children under the charge of Managers of District Schools and Boards of Guardians in the Metropolis, and to advise as to any changes that may be desirable."

BOARD SCHOOL LESSONS ON DRINK.

SIR W. LAWSON (Cumberland, Cockermouth) asked whether the Halifax School Board contemplated the delivery of a course of lectures to children on the injurious effects of alcohol, and whether an application had been made by the Federated Brewers' Association, asking to be allowed to provide an able lecturer on the same subject, so that any incorrect statements promulgated by the first lecturer might be corrected? He wished to know whether the School Board would be allowed to arrange for the delivery of lectures of that description?

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (Mr. ACLAND, York, W.R., Rotherham): I have no doubt that teaching on the subject of drink is allowed in schools under the innocent heading "Food and Drinks" in the syllabus on health, but I have not heard of any effort being made in the direction indicated. I imagine that the Halifax School Board will be able to look after itself in this matter.

H.M.S. "BENBOW."

MR. MACDONA (Southwark, Rotherhithe): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, inasmuch as he cannot give the *Benbow* frigate as a place of rest and recreation for the watermen, lightermen, and seamen of the Thames, he will consider whether, when the sale of the other old ships takes place shortly, it would be within the scope of his power to give some one of these disused vessels that possibly may not find a purchaser to be used for the above-named purpose?

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Sir U. KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH, Lancashire, Clitheroe): I informed the hon. Gentleman the other day that the *Benbow* is quite unfit for the purpose which his question suggested. I fear that the same objection applies to the other ships which are the property of the Admiralty, and are about to be advertised for sale. But I have given directions that a copy of the sale list shall be sent, as soon as it is finally settled, to the hon. Member, and if he will watch the sale or make any other inquiries, he will be able to decide whether he agrees in the opinion which I have expressed on behalf of the Admiralty.

TRADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE COLONIES.

Sir C. W. DILKE asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if, in view of the strong feeling in New South Wales in regard to Treaty arrangements affecting colonial trade, he could state what action would be taken on the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown?

Sir E. GREY: We are now in communication with the Colonial Office, but I shall not be able to announce a decision before the House rises for the Recess.

A QUESTION OF PROCEDURE.

Mr. A. C. MORTON (Peterborough): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary for Ireland whether it is intended to give us an opportunity to obtain replies from Ministers to questions which we put to-day, but got no answer to?

Mr. J. MORLEY: I am afraid there will be no opportunity to-day.

***Mr. WEIR** (Ross and Cromarty): There are several points on which I wanted information, and could not get it because of the absence of Ministers.

Mr. J. MORLEY: The hon. Member has had many opportunities of extracting information; probably he will be able to survive this last blow.

Mr. A. C. MORTON: Then I will ask you, Mr. Speaker, if we can have any opportunity of raising these questions in the Committee on the Appropriation Bill?

Mr. SPEAKER: In Committee you can deal with nothing except Appropriation, I imagine. Of course, I am not in a position to answer that question. The better plan will be to elicit the information from the Chairman of the Committee.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (APPROPRIATION) BILL.

COMMITTEE.

Bill considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. A. C. MORTON: May I ask whether we have any opportunity in Committee on this Bill of raising any questions at all concerning the Appropriation?

The CHAIRMAN: Certainly not.

Bill reported, without Amendment; to be read the third time To-morrow.

Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th instant, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned at half after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS,

Saturday, 25th August 1894.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (APPROPRIATION) BILL.

Brought from the Commons; Read 1^a; Then (Standing Order, No. XXXIX. having been suspended) read 2^a; Committee negatived; Bill read 3^a, and passed.

House adjourned during pleasure.

House resumed.

PROROGATION OF THE PARLIAMENT.

The Lords Commissioners—namely, The Lord Chancellor (Lord Herschell); The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (The Earl of Kimberley); The Lord Steward of the Household (The Marquess of Breadalbane); The Lord Chamberlain of the Household (Lord Carrington); The Treasurer of the Household (The Earl of Chesterfield)—being in their Robes, and seated on a Form placed between the Throne and the Woolsack, commanded the Yeoman Usher of the Black Rod (Captain Butler) to let the Commons know, "The Lords Commissioners desire their immediate Attendance in this House to hear the Commission read."

Who being at the Bar, with their Speaker;—

COMMISSION.

The following Bills received the Royal Assent:—

Consolidated Fund (Appropriation).

Uniforms.

Chimney Sweepers.

Quarries.

Copyhold (Consolidation).

Coal Mines (Check Weigher).

Crown Lands.

Heritable Securities (Scotland).

Statute Law Revision.

Equalisation of Rates (London).

Housing of the Working Classes (Borrowing Powers).

Merchant Shipping.

Congested Districts Board (Ireland).

Juries (Ireland) Acts Amendment.

Expiring Laws Continuance.

Railway and Canal Traffic.

Diseases of Animals.

Local Government (Scotland).

Building Societies (No. 2).

Canal Tolls and Charges Provisional Order (No. 4) (Birmingham Canal).

Canal Tolls and Charges Provisional Order (No. 6) (River Lee, &c.).

Canal Tolls and Charges Provisional Order (No. 10) (Lagan, &c., Canals).

After which,

THE LORD CHANCELLOR said—"We are commanded to deliver to you Her Majesty's Speech in Her Majesty's own words."

"*My Lords, and Gentlemen,*

It affords me sensible gratification to be able to dismiss you at the end of a Session which has been little less than a prolongation of the previous one; and it gives me pleasure to reflect that your labours, if they have been exhausting, have also been fruitful.

I am confident that you will share in the joy with which I and my people have welcomed the birth of an Heir in the third generation to my Throne; an event not merely propitious, but unprecedented in the history of this country.

My relations with Foreign Powers continue to be friendly and peaceful.

It is, however, matter for regret that a variety of questions relating to Africa between my Government and that of the French Republic still remain unsettled.

It is my wish that these should be arranged without unnecessary delay; and I am engaged in friendly negotiations with that object.

The state of affairs in Siam continues to engage my earnest attention. The welfare of that Kingdom, in which the interests of British trade are so preponderating, cannot be a matter of indifference to my Government. I trust that the final settlement of questions arising out of the recent Treaty between France and Siam may not much longer be delayed, and, in the meantime, I have directed Commissioners, in conjunction with those of France, to lay down on the spot the proper limits of a neutral region in the neighbourhood of the Mekong, which shall separate my dominions from those of the French Republic.

In concert with the President of the United States I have taken the steps necessary to give effect to the Award of the Tribunal of Arbitration on the question of the Seal Fisheries in the Behring Sea; and I have assented to an Act of Parliament for this purpose. A similar Act has been passed by the Congress of the United States.

The Governments of the two countries are also in communication with the principal foreign Powers with the view of obtaining their adhesion to the Regulations prescribed by the Award.

I regret to state that war has broken out between the Empires of China and Japan. After endeavouring, in concert with Russia and with other Powers, to prevent the outbreak of hostilities, I have taken steps to preserve my strict neutrality between the contending parties.

I have concluded a Treaty with the Emperor of Japan for the regulation of commercial intercourse between that country and the United Kingdom.

A conference was held at Ottawa in the month of June last, at which Representatives of the Imperial Government, the Dominion of Canada, the Cape, and the Australasian Colonies met to consider questions relating to Intercolonial Tariffs and Communications.

I have learnt with satisfaction that the proceedings of the Conference were of a character to strengthen the union of the Colonies concerned, both among themselves and with the mother-country.

"*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

I thank you for the liberal supplies which you have provided for the requirements of the Public Service.

Though I lament the necessity for increasing the burden of taxation, it had become indispensable for the security of my Empire to increase my naval strength.

I trust that the alterations which you have made in the fiscal system of the country, and to which the greatest part of this Session has been necessarily devoted, will have the effect of materially alleviating that portion of the burden which falls upon the less wealthy classes of the population, and may redound to the contentment and prosperity of the nation at large.

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

While the general tranquillity of Ireland has been maintained in a remarkable degree, certain social and administrative difficulties still subsist, which continue to engage the earnest attention of my Government.

I have given my ready assent to the Bills which, notwithstanding the shortness of the Session, you have been able to consider and mature.

The measure dealing with the system of Local Government in Scotland will, I doubt not, tend to reorganise that system on a more popular and more efficient basis.

You have also passed a beneficial measure for the better adjustment of the Rates levied by the several Local Authorities in London.

A large number of Bills of substantial importance have been passed, among which I would mention that for the amendment of the law relating to Railway Rates and Charges, and that for the better regulation of Building Societies.

In bidding you farewell, I pray that the blessing of Providence may rest upon all your labours."

Then a Commission for proroguing the Parliament was read.

After which,

THE LORD CHANCELLOR said—

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

By virtue of Her Majesty's Commission, under the Great Seal, to us and other Lords directed, and now read, we do, in Her Majesty's Name, and in obedience to Her Commands, prorogue this Parliament to Saturday the Tenth day of November next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Saturday the Tenth day of November next.

* * *

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

Saturday, 25th August 1894.

The House met at Nine of the clock.

NEW WRIT ISSUED.

For Kilkenny County (Southern Division), *v.* Patrick Alexander Chance, esquire, Chiltern Hundreds.—(*Mr. O'Driscoll.*)

CONSOLIDATED FUND (APPROPRIATION) BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to,—

Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill:—

Amendment to Amendments to—

Local Government (Scotland) Bill, without Amendment.

PROROGATION OF THE PARLIAMENT.

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners;—

The House went; and the Royal Assent was given to several Bills.—[See page 425.]

And afterwards Her Majesty's Most Gracious Speech was delivered to both Houses of Parliament by the LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR (in pursuance of Her Majesty's Commands).

Then a Commission for proroguing the Parliament was read.

After which,

THE LORD CHANCELLOR said—

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

By virtue of Her Majesty's Commission, under the Great Seal, to us and other Lords directed, and now read, we do, in Her Majesty's Name, and in obedience to Her Commands, prorogue this Parliament to Saturday the Tenth day of November next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Saturday the Tenth day of November next.

[TABLE OF STATUTES.

The following Tables are Re-produced by Special Permission of the Comptroller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office from the Volume of Public General Acts Passed in the 57th and 58th Years of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. Published by Authority.

A TABLE OF THE TITLES

OF

THE PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS

PASSED IN THE THIRD SESSION OF

THE TWENTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

57 & 58 VICTORIA.—A.D. 1894.

1. AN Act to apply certain sums out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the years ending on the thirty-first day of March one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-four, and one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five. (Consolidated Fund (No. 1).)

2. An Act to provide for carrying into effect the Award of the Tribunal of Arbitration constituted under a Treaty between Her Majesty the Queen and the United States of America. (Behring Sea Award.)

3. An Act to provide, during twelve months, for the Discipline and Regulation of the Army. (Army (Annual).)

4. An Act to authorise an advance out of the General Fund of monies belonging to the suitors of the Supreme Court in Ireland for the purposes of the Library used by the Bar of Ireland at the Four Courts, Dublin. (Four Courts Library.)

5. An Act to provide for the establishment of a County Councils Association in Scotland, and to enable County Councils to contribute to the Expenses of the Association. (County Councils Association (Scotland) Expenses.)

6. An Act for amending the Law with respect to the Time for holding Quarter Sessions. (Quarter Sessions.)

7. An Act to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five. (Consolidated Fund (No. 2).)

8. An Act to amend the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, 1893, in so far as it relates to the Island of Jersey. (Industrial and Provident Societies.)

9. An Act to amend the provisions of the Solicitors Act, 1877, relating to the Examination of Persons applying to be admitted Solicitors of the Supreme Court in England. (Solicitors.)

10. An Act to amend the Trustee Act, 1893. (Trustee Act, 1893, Amendment.)

11. An Act to grant Money for the purpose of certain Local Loans, and for other purposes relating to Local Loans. (Public Works Loans.)

12. An Act to enable Indian Railway Companies to pay Interest out of Capital during construction. (Indian Railways.)

13. An Act to amend the Law of Arbitration in Scotland. (Arbitration (Scotland).)

14. An Act to extend the powers of the Fishery Board for Scotland in relation to Harbours and Piers. (Fishery Board (Scotland) Extension of Powers.)

15. An Act to amend the Law as regards Music and Dancing Licences in Middlesex. (Music and Dancing Licences (Middlesex).)

16. An Act to amend the Supreme Court of Judicature Acts. (Supreme Court of Judicature (Procedure).)

17. An Act to regulate the conditions as to Leave of Absence for certain Colonial Officers. (Colonial Officers (Leave of Absence).)

18. An Act to amend the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892. (Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, Amendment.)

19. An Act for enabling the Board of Agriculture to undertake Prosecutions in certain cases under the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887. (Merchandise Marks (Prosecutions).)

20. An Act to amend the Public Libraries Consolidation (Scotland) Act, 1887. (Public Libraries (Scotland).)

21. An Act to amend the Bishopric of Bristol Act, 1884. (Bishopric of Bristol Amendment.)

22. An Act to enable Police Constables to cause horses and certain other animals when mortally or seriously injured to be slaughtered. (Injured Animals.)

23. An Act to amend the Commissioners of Works Act, 1852, and for other purposes relating to the Commissioners of Works. (Commissioners of Works.)

24. An Act to amend the Wild Birds Protection Act, 1880. (Wild Birds Protection.)

25. An Act to empower Boards of Guardians to grant Relief to Members of Friendly Societies in Receipt of any Allowances from the same. (Outdoor Relief Friendly Societies.)

26. An Act to extend the Powers of Local Fisheries Committees with respect to Fisheries for Shell Fish. (Sea Fisheries (Shell Fish) Regulation.)

27. An Act to amend the Law for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. (Prevention of Cruelty to Children (Amendment).)

28. An Act for providing for notice of and inquiry into accidents occurring in certain Employments and Industries. (Notice of Accidents.)

29. An Act to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five. (Consolidated Fund (No. 3).)

30. An Act to grant certain Duties of Customs and Inland Revenue, to alter other Duties, and to amend the Law relating to Customs and Inland Revenue, and to make other provision for the financial arrangements of the year. (Finance.)

31. An Act for authorising the Treasury to indemnify the Bank of England with respect to the Transfer of Consolidated Bank Annuities standing in the name of the late Sultan of Zanzibar. (Zanzibar Indemnity.)

32. An Act to accelerate the Registration of Parochial Electors in England and Wales in the present year. (Registration Acceleration.)

33. An Act to further amend the Industrial Schools Act, 1866. (Industrial Schools Acts Amendment.)

34. An Act to provide for the purchase of certain Lands belonging to the Duke of Bedford by the Trustees of the British Museum. (British Museum (Purchase of Land).)

35. An Act to amend the Charitable Trusts Acts. (Charitable Trusts (Places of Religious Worship) Amendment.)

36. An Act to amend the Valuation of Lands (Scotland) Acts in regard to the duties of the Assessor of Railways and Canals. (Valuation of Lands (Scotland) Acts Amendment.)

37. An Act for removal of the Restrictions on the use of Locomotive Engines for Threshing purposes. (Locomotive Threshing Engines.)

38. An Act to amend the Public Libraries (Ireland) Acts. (Public Libraries (Ireland).)

39. An Act to make further provision for the establishment of Prize Courts, and for other purposes connected therewith. (Prize Courts.)

40. An Act to provide for the attendance of Assessors at the trial and hearing of Maritime Causes in the Court of Session and Sheriff Courts in Scotland, and in Appeals to the House of Lords. (Nautical Assessors (Scotland).)

41. An Act to consolidate the Acts relating to the Prevention of Cruelty to, and Protection of, Children. (Prevention of Cruelty to Children.)

42. An Act to provide for the better regulation of Quarries. (Quarries.)

43. An Act to amend the Law relating to the Management of the Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues of the Crown. (Crown Lands.)

44. An Act to amend the Law relating to Heritable Securities in Scotland. (Heritable Securities (Scotland).)

45. An Act to regulate and restrict the wearing of Naval and Military Uniforms. (Uniforms.)

46. An Act to consolidate the Copyhold Acts. (Copyhold.)

47. An Act to amend the Building Societies Acts. (Building Societies.)

48. An Act to continue various Expiring Laws. (Expiring Laws Continuance.)

49. An Act to amend the Juries (Ireland) Acts. (Jurors (Ireland) Amendment.)

50. An Act to make further provision with respect to the Congested Districts Board for Ireland. (Congested Districts Board (Ireland).)

51. An Act to make better provision for the Regulation of Chimney Sweepers. (Chimney Sweepers.)

52. An Act to amend the provisions of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, with respect to Check Weighers. (Coal Mines (Check Weigher).)

53. An Act to make better provision for the Equalisation of Rates as between the different parts of London. (London (Equalisation of Rates).)

54. An Act to amend the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888. (Railway and Canal Traffic.)

55. An Act to explain the provisions of Part II. of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, with respect to powers of borrowing. (Housing of the Working Classes.)

56. An Act for further promoting the Revision of the Statute Law by repealing Enactments which have ceased to be in force or have become unnecessary. (Statute Law Revision.)

57. An Act to consolidate the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts, 1878 to 1893. (Diseases of Animals.)

58. An Act to establish a Local Government Board for Scotland, and make further provision for Local Government in Scotland, and for other purposes. (Local Government (Scotland).)

59. An Act to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, and to appropriate the Supplies granted in this Session of Parliament. (Appropriation.)

60. An Act to consolidate Enactments relating to Merchant Shipping. (Merchant Shipping.)

A TABLE OF THE TITLES

OF THE

PUBLIC ACTS OF A LOCAL CHARACTER

PASSED DURING THE SESSION

WHICH ARE PLACED AMONGST THE LOCAL ACTS.

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57 & 58 VICTORIA.—A.D. 1894.

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i. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Secretary for Scotland, in pursuance of the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, to increase the number of Magistrates in the Royal Burgh of North Berwick. (North Berwick Provisional Order Confirmation.)

ii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, relating to the Town of Belturbet. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 2).)

iii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, relating to the Rural Sanitary District of Waterford. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 3).)

xvi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Bangor, Dartmouth, Littlehampton, and Seaford. (Pier and Harbour Orders Confirmation (No. 1).)

xvii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, relating to the Urban Sanitary District of Portsmouth. (Local Government Board's Provisional Order Confirmation (Housing of Working Classes).)

xviii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, relating to the Urban Sanitary District of Lisburn. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 4).)

xix. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Liversedge and Mirfield and the Stroud Joint Hospital Districts. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation.)

xx. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Accrington, Ashton-under-Lyne, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Bolton, Hexham, Knaresborough and Tentergate, Llandilo, Merthyr Tydfil, Penrith, Southport, Wallasey, Widnes, and Workington. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 2).)

xxi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Bristol, Dover, Henley-upon-Thames, Idle, Nottingham, Padiham and Hapton, Tunbridge Wells, and Wells (Somerset). (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 3).)

xxii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Baildon, Burnley, Burton-upon-Trent, Leicester, Margate, Norwich, and Wigan, and the Port of Cardiff. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 4).)

xxiii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Bristol, Heckmondwike, Southampton, Sowerby Bridge, and Stockport. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 6).)

xxiv. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, relating to the Rural Sanitary District of Strabane. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 8).)

xxxv. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, relating to the Rural Sanitary District of Tullamore. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 6).)

xxxvi. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, relating to the Rural Sanitary District of Roscrea. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 7).)

xxxvii. An Act to confirm two Provisional Orders made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, and the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, relating to the Urban Sanitary District of Dublin. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 9).)

xxxviii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, relating to the Urban Sanitary District of Larne. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 10).)

xxxix. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, relating to the Urban Sanitary District of Clones. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 11).)

xl. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, relating to the Rural Sanitary District of Coleraine. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 12).)

xli. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Secretary for Scotland under the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1867, relating to Wemyss, and Buckhaven Methil and Innerleven Water. (Wemyss, and Buckhaven Methil and Innerleven Water Supply Confirmation.)

xlii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State under the Metropolitan Police Act, 1886, relating to lands in the Parishes of St. Pancras, and St. Giles, 'Camberwell. (Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Confirmation.)

xliii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order of the Board of Agriculture relating to the Regulation of certain Commons in the Borough of Luton in the County of Bedford. (Commons Regulation (Luton) Provisional Order Confirmation.)

xliv. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, and the Public Health Act, 1875, relating to the Urban Sanitary District of Wokingham. (Local Government Board's Provisional Order Confirmation (Gas).)

xlv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Sheffield, Sunderland, and Wigan. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (Housing of Working Classes) (No. 2).)

xlvi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Bredbury and Romiley, Leyton, Swadlincote, and Wilmslow, and the Rural Sanitary District of the Wharfedale Union. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 5).)

xlvii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Gosport and Alverstoke, Harrow, Ilfracombe, Norwich, Ramsgate, and Redruth. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 8).)

xlviii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, relating to the Classification of Merchandise Traffic, and the Schedule of Maximum Rates and Charges of the Easingwold Railway Company, the Crieff and Comrie Railway Company, the East and West Yorkshire Union Railway Company, the Harrow and Stanmore Railway Company, the Shortlands and Nunhead Railway Company, the South Clare Railways Company (Limited), and the Stocksbridge Railway Company. (Railway Rates and Charges (Easingwold Railway, &c.) Order Confirmation.)

xlix. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Barrow-in-Furness, Buxton, Chepping Wycombe, Chesterfield, St. Helens, and West Hartlepool. (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 1).)

l. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Grimsby, Harrow, Leyton, Monmouth, Peterborough, and St. Austell. (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 2).)

li. An Act to confirm an Order made by the Secretary for Scotland under the Sea Fisheries Act, 1868, relating to a several Mussel Fishery at Cockenzie, County of Haddington. (Mussel Fishery (Cockenzie) Order Confirmation.)

cvii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, relating to the Town of Fermoy. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 1).)

cviii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, relating to the Urban Sanitary District of Athlone. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 5).)

cix. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, and the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, relating to the Urban Sanitary District of the Pembroke Township. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 13).)

cx. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, relating to the Urban Sanitary District of the Township of Kingstown. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 14).)

cxi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Collieston, Fraserburgh, Polperro, and Whitelinks. (Pier and Harbour Orders Confirmation (No. 2).)

cxiii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Avoch, Burnmouth, Loch Efort, and Poole. (Pier and Harbour Orders Confirmation (No. 3).)

cxiii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Montrose. (Pier and Harbour Order Confirmation (No. 4).)

cxiv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Crystal Palace District, Oswestry, Plymouth, Shropshire (Shrewsbury), Wakefield, and Yeadon. (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 3).)

cxv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Aberdare, Birmingham, Chelmsford, and Guildford. (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation Orders (No. 4).)

cxvi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Clonmel and Moss Side (Collier Marr). (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 5).)

cxvii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, relating to Bolsover Gas, Earby and Thornton Gas, Ilford Gas, and Willenhall Gas. (Gas Orders Confirmation).

cxviii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, relating to Newquay (Cornwall) Gas, North Bierley Gas, Uttoxeter Gas, and Worthing Gas. (Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2).)

cxix. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, relating to Bishops Waltham Water, Blandford Water, East Surrey Water, Tilehurst, Pangbourne, and District Water, and West Cheshire Water. (Water Orders Confirmation.)

cxx. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Bradford (Yorks) and Saint George, and the Rural Sanitary Districts of the Belper Union, the Bromsgrove Union, the Wakefield Union, and the Township of Saddleworth. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 7).)

cxxi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Chorley, the Fulstone and Hepworth, the Leigh, and the Pontefract Joint Hospital Districts. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 9).)

cxxii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Abram, Stockport, and Wilsden. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 10).)

cxxiii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Birmingham, Brighton, Burnley, Darwen, Lancaster, and Sheffield. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 11).)

cxxiv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Counties of the Isle of Wight, London, and West Sussex, and to the Boroughs of Margate and Tunbridge Wells. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 12).)

cxxv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Isle of Thanet and Stone Joint Hospital Districts, and to the Leigh and Atherton and the Stalybridge and Dukinfield Joint Sewerage Districts. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 13).)

cxxvi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Middleton and Preston. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 16).)

cxxvii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board relating to the Haslingden, Rawtenstall, and Bacup Outfall Sewerage District. (Local Government Board's Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 19).)

cxxviii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board under the provisions of the Poor Law Act, 1889, and the Public Health Act, 1875, relating to the Metropolitan Asylum District. (Local Government Board's Provisional Order Confirmation (Poor Law).)

cxxix. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Blackburn, Blackpool (two), and Stalybridge, and to the Rural Sanitary District of the Blackburn Union. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 14).)

cxxx. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board relating to the County of Dorset. (Local Government Board's Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 17).)

cxxxi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary District of King's Lynn (two), the Burnley Joint Hospital District, and the West Kent Main Sewerage District. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 18).)

cxci. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Tramways Act, 1870, relating to Barrow-in-Furness Corporation Tramways, Liverpool and Walton-on-the Hill Tramways and Liverpool Corporation Tramways (Extensions). (Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1).)

cxcii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Tramways Act, 1870, relating to Croydon Corporation Tramways, Croydon Tramways (Extensions), and South Staffordshire Tramways. (Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2).)

cxciii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Bolton and St. Helens, and to the Wisbech and Walsoken Main Sewerage District. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 15).)

cxciv. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Education Department under the Elementary Education Act, 1870, to enable the School Board for London to put in force the Lands Clauses Acts. (Education Department Provisional Order Confirmation (London).)

cxcv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Education Department under the Elementary Education Act, 1870, to enable the School Boards for Barry United District, Brotherton, Hornsey, Low Leyton, Liverpool, Sutton (Surrey), West Ham, Willesden, and York to put in force the Lands Clauses Acts. (Education Department Provisional Orders Confirmation (Barry, &c.).)

cxcvi. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, containing the Classification of Merchandise Traffic, and the Schedule of Maximum Tolls and Charges applicable thereto, for the Canals of the Great Northern and certain other Railway Companies. (Canal Tolls and Charges, No. 1 (Canals of the Great Northern and certain other Railway Companies) Order Confirmation).

cxcvii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, containing the Classification of Merchandise Traffic, and the Schedule of Maximum Rates, Tolls, and Charges applicable thereto, for the Bridgewater Canals Undertaking of the Manchester Ship Canal Company, and for certain other Canals. (Canal Rates, Tolls, and Charges, No. 2 (Bridgewater, &c. Canals) Order Confirmation.)

cxcviii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, containing the Classification of Merchandise Traffic, and the Schedule of Maximum Tolls and Charges applicable thereto, for the Aberdare Canal Navigation, and certain other Canals. (Canal Tolls and Charges, No. 3 (Aberdare, &c. Canals) Order Confirmation.)

cxcix. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, containing the Classification of Merchandise Traffic, and the Schedule of Maximum Tolls and Charges applicable thereto, for the Regent's Canal. (Canal Tolls and Charges, No. 5 (Regent's Canal) Order Confirmation).

cc. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, containing the Classification of Merchandise Traffic, and the Schedule of Maximum Tolls and Charges applicable thereto, for the River Ancholme Navigation, and certain other Canals. (Canal Tolls and Charges, No. 7 (River Ancholme, &c.) Order Confirmation.)

cci. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, containing the Classification of Merchandise Traffic, and the Schedule of Maximum Tolls and Charges applicable thereto, for the River Cam Navigation, and certain other Canals. (Canal Tolls and Charges, No. 8 (River Cam, &c.) Order Confirmation.)

ccii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, containing the Classification of Merchandise Traffic, and the Schedule of Maximum Tolls and Charges applicable thereto, for the Canals of the Caledonian Railway Company, and of the North British Railway Company. (Canal Tolls and Charges, No. 9 (Canals of the Caledonian and North British Railway Companies) Order Confirmation.)

cciii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, containing the Classification of Merchandise Traffic, and the Schedule of Maximum Rates, Tolls, and Charges applicable thereto, for the Grand Canal. (Canal Rates, Tolls, and Charges, No. 11 (Grand Canal) Order Confirmation.)

cciv. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, containing the Classification of Merchandise Traffic, and the Schedule of Maximum Tolls and Charges applicable thereto, for the Birmingham Canal Navigations. (Canal Tolls and Charges, No. 4 (Birmingham Canal) Order Confirmation.)

ccv. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, containing the Classification of Merchandise Traffic, and the Schedule of Maximum Tolls and Charges applicable thereto, for the River Lee Navigation, and certain other Canals. (Canal Tolls and Charges, No. 6 (River Lee, &c.) Order Confirmation.)

ccvi. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, containing the Classification of Merchandise Traffic, and the Schedule of Maximum Tolls and Charges applicable thereto, for the Lagan Canal, and certain other Canals. (Canal Tolls and Charges, No. 10 (Lagan, &c. Canals) Order Confirmation.)

A TABLE OF THE TITLES

OF

THE LOCAL AND PRIVATE ACTS

PASSED DURING THE SESSION

57 & 58 VICTORIA.—A.D. 1894.

LOCAL ACTS.

The Titles to which the Letter **P.** *is prefixed are Public Acts of a Local Character.*

ROYAL ASSENT, 1st June, 1894.

P. i. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Secretary for Scotland, in pursuance of the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, to increase the number of Magistrates in the Royal Burgh of North Berwick. (North Berwick Provisional Order Confirmation.)

P. ii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, relating to the Town of Belturbet. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 2).)

P. iii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, relating to the Rural Sanitary District of Waterford. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 3).)

iv. An Act to amend the Alloa Water Act, 1891. (Alloa Water (Amendment).)

v. An Act to confer further powers upon the Cockermouth, Keswick, and Penrith Railway Company, and for other purposes. (Cockermouth, Keswick, and Penrith Railway.)

vi. An Act to extend the provisions of the London Brighton and South Coast Railway Company (Steamboats) Act 1864. (London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway (Steam Vessels).)

vii. An Act to amend the City of London Police Superannuation Act 1889. (City of London Police Superannuation.)

viii. An Act to authorise the English Scottish and Australian Bank Limited to pay interest to the creditors of the English Scottish and Australian Chartered Bank upon their respective Debts for which Securities of the first-mentioned Bank are substituted in respect of the period between the suspension of the said Bank and the confirmation of the Plan of Arrangement of its affairs and for other purposes. (English Scottish and Australian Bank Limited.)

ix. An Act for enabling the Queensland Investment and Land Mortgage Company Limited to subdivide their Capital into Preference and Ordinary Capital and for other purposes. (Queensland Investment and Land Mortgage Company's.)

x. An Act to amend the Royal Medical Benevolent College Act 1855. (Royal Medical Benevolent College.)

xi. An Act for the abandonment of the Worcester and Broom Railway. (Worcester and Broom Railway (Abandonment).)

xii. An Act to confer further powers on the Manchester Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway Company and the Liverpool St. Helen's and South Lancashire Railway Company and for other purposes. (Manchester Sheffield and Lincolnshire and Liverpool St. Helen's and South Lancashire Railway Companies.)

xiii. An Act for the abandonment of the Undertaking of the Hull and North Western Junction Railway Company. (Hull and North Western Junction Railway (Abandonment).)

xiv. An Act to repeal the Acts relating to the London Life Association from the date of its registration as a Limited Company and to make provisions for the future government of the Association and the management of its affairs and for other purposes. (London Life Association.)

xv. An Act for granting further powers to the British American Land Company. (British American Land Company's.)

Royal Assent, 18th June, 1894.

P. xvi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Bangor, Dartmouth, Littlehampton, and Seaford. (Pier and Harbour Orders Confirmation (No. 1).)

P. xvii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, relating to the Urban Sanitary District of Portsmouth. (Local Government Board's Provisional Order Confirmation (Housing of Working Classes).)

P. xviii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, relating to the Urban Sanitary District of Lisburn. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 4).)

P. xix. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Liversedge and Mirfield and the Stroud Joint Hospital Districts. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation.)

P. xx. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Accrington, Ashton-under-Lyne, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Bolton, Hexham, Knaresborough and Tentergate, Llandilo, Merthyr Tydfil, Penrith, Southport, Wallasey, Widnes, and Workington. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 2).)

P. xxi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Bristol, Dover, Henley upon-Thames, Idle, Nottingham, Padiham and Hapton, Tunbridge Wells, and Wells (Somerset). (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 3).)

P. xxii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Baildon, Burnley, Burton-upon-Trent, Leicester, Margate, Norwich, and Wigan, and the Port of Cardiff. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 4).)

P. xxiii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Bristol, Heckmondwike, Southampton, Sowerby Bridge, and Stockport. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 6).)

P. xxiv. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, relating to the Rural Sanitary District of Strabane. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 8).)

xxv. An Act for creating a Preference Stock of the Australasian Mortgage and Agency Company Limited and for other purposes relating thereto. (Australasian Mortgage and Agency Company, Limited.)

xxvi. An Act for the transfer of the undertaking of the Barrow Navigation Company to the Grand Canal Company to confer further powers on the Grand Canal Company and for other purposes. (Grand Canal.)

xxvii. An Act to extend the limits of the Act for appointing a Stipendiary Justice of the Peace for the parish of Merthyr Tydfil and adjoining places and for other purposes. (Merthyr Tydfil Stipendiary Justice.)

xxviii. An Act to extend the period for the completion of the railway authorised by the Bray and Enniskerry Light Railway Act 1886 to confer additional powers on the Company with reference to their capital and undertaking and for other purposes. (Bray and Enniskerry Railway.)

xxix. An Act for enabling an agreement between the Corporation of Doncaster and Alexander Henry Browne respecting part of the Town Field in Doncaster to be carried into effect. (Doncaster Corporation.)

xxx. An Act for extending the time limited for the construction by the Hull Barnsley and West Riding Junction Railway and Dock Company of certain of their authorised works and for conferring further powers upon the Company and amending the Acts relating to them. (Hull, Barnsley, and West Riding Junction Railway and Dock.)

xxxi. An Act for conferring on the Millom Local Board further powers in relation to the supply of Gas and Water and for other purposes. (Millom Local Board.)

xxxii. An Act to renew the powers of the Company of Proprietors of the Rochdale Canal to borrow money to amend the Acts relating to that Company and for other purposes. (Rochdale Canal.)

xxxiii. An Act for incorporating and conferring powers on the Paignton Gas Company. (Paignton Gas.)

xxxiv. An Act to confer further Powers on the Great North of Scotland Railway Company. (Great North of Scotland Railway.)

Royal Assent, 3rd July 1894.

P. xxxv. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, relating to the Rural Sanitary District of Tullamore. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 6).)

P. xxxvi. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Public Health (Ireland)

Act, 1878, relating to the Rural Sanitary District of Roscrea. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 7).)

P. xxxvii. An Act to confirm two Provisional Orders made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, and the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, relating to the Urban Sanitary District of Dublin. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 9).)

P. xxxviii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, relating to the Urban Sanitary District of Larne. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 10).)

P. xxxix. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, relating to the Urban Sanitary District of Clones. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 11).)

P. xl. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, relating to the Rural Sanitary District of Coleraine. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 12).)

P. xli. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Secretary for Scotland under the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1867, relating to Wemyss, and Buckhaven Methil and Innerleven Water. (Wemyss, and Buckhaven Methil and Innerleven Water Supply Confirmation.)

P. xlii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State under the Metropolitan Police Act, 1886, relating to lands in the Parishes of St. Pancras, and St. Giles, Camberwell. (Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Confirmation.)

P. xliii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order of the Board of Agriculture relating to the Regulation of certain Commons in the Borough of Luton in the County of Bedford. (Commons Regulation (Luton) Provisional Order Confirmation.)

P. xliv. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, and the Public Health Act, 1875, relating to the Urban Sanitary District of Wokingham. (Local Government Board's Provisional Order Confirmation (Gas).)

P. xlv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Sheffield, Sunderland, and Wigan. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (Housing of Working Classes) (No. 2).)

P. xlvi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Bredbury and Romiley, Leyton, Swadlincote, and Wilmslow, and the Rural Sanitary District of the Wharfedale Union. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 5).)

P. xlvii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Gosport and Alverstoke, Harrow, Ilfracombe, Norwich, Ramsgate, and Redruth. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 8).)

P. xlviii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, relating to the Classification of Merchandise Traffic, and the Schedule of Maximum Rates and Charges of the Easingwold Railway Company, the Crieff and Comrie Railway Company, the East and West Yorkshire Union Railway Company, the Harrow and Stanmore Railway Company, the Shortlands and Nunhead Railway Company, the South Clare Railways Company (Limited) and the Stocksbridge Railway Company. (Railway Rates and Charges (Easingwold Railway, &c.) Order Confirmation.)

P. xlix. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Barrow-in-Furness, Buxton, Chepping Wycombe, Chesterfield, St. Helens, and West Hartlepool. (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 1).)

P. l. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Grimsby, Harrow, Leyton, Monmouth, Peterborough, and St. Austell. (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 2).)

P. li. An Act to confirm an Order made by the Secretary for Scotland under the Sea Fisheries Act, 1868, relating to a several Mussel Fishery at Cockenzie, County of Haddington. (Mussel Fishery (Cockenzie) Order Confirmation.)

lii. An Act to confirm an agreement entered into between the Great Southern and Western Railway Company and the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland for the improvement and use of the Railway Station at Thurles. (Thurles Railway Station.)

liii. An Act to extend the time for the completion of the authorised works for enlarging and improving the port and harbour of Neath. (Neath Harbour.)

liv. An Act to provide for the amalgamation of the Carshalton Gas Company with the Croydon Commercial Gas and Coke Company and for other purposes. (Croydon Gas.)

lv. An Act to confer further powers on the Edinburgh and Leith Corporations Gas Commissioners in relation to their Gas Undertaking and for the Construction of additional Gasworks and for other purposes. (Edinburgh and Leith Corporations Gas (Additional Powers).)

lvi. An Act to enable the Corporation of Edinburgh to create and issue Corporation Stock to authorise the redemption of the City Creditors Annuities and of certain annual payments by the Commissioners for the Harbour and Docks of Leith and for other purposes. (Edinburgh Corporation Stock.)

lvii. An Act to extend the time for the purchase of lands for and for the completion of the Central London Railway and for other purposes. (Central London Railway.)

lviii. An Act to empower the Local Board of Fulwood to improve their existing water supply and to confer further powers on the Local Board. (Fulwood Local Board (Water).)

lix. An Act to authorise the Local Board for the district of Aberdare to construct additional Waterworks and for other purposes. (Aberdare Local Board Waterworks.)

lx. An Act to amend the Law relating to the jurisdiction of the Chancellor Vice-Chancellor and other authorities of the University of Cambridge over persons not Members of the University and to make better provision for the use of commons the management of markets and fairs and in other respects for the local government and improvement of the borough of Cambridge and for other purposes. (Cambridge University and Corporation.)

lxi. An Act for extending the limits of supply of the Southend Waterworks Company and for conferring further powers on the Company for the construction of works the raising of capital and otherwise in relation to their undertaking. (Southend Waterworks.)

lxii. An Act for conferring further powers on the Torquay Gas Company. (Torquay Gas.)

lxiii. An Act to authorise the Corporation of Bury to purchase land in connection with their waterworks undertaking and for other purposes. (Bury Corporation.)

lxiv. An Act to enable the Local Board for the District of Bridlington to hold and acquire certain lands and hereditaments at Bridlington Quay now held in trust for them and to confer upon the said Local Board further powers for the good government of their District and for other purposes. (Bridlington Local Board.)

lxv. An Act to authorise the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Bacup in the County of Lancaster to purchase and acquire the Undertaking of the Rossendale Waterworks Company and for other purposes. (Bacup Corporation Water.)

lxvi. An Act to confer further powers upon the London Chatham and Dover Railway Company and for other purposes. (London Chatham and Dover Railway.)

lxvii. An Act to authorise the Surrey Commercial Dock Company to alter and extend their Works to raise further Capital and for other purposes. (Surrey Commercial Dock.)

lxviii. An Act to authorise the Magistrates and Town Council of the Burgh of Falkirk to erect construct and maintain Gasworks and supply with Gas the Burgh of Falkirk and districts and places adjacent to empower the Magistrates and Town Council to purchase and the Falkirk Joint Stock Company Limited to sell to the Magistrates and Town Council the Gasworks and property of that Company and for other purposes. (Falkirk Corporation Gas.)

lxix. An Act to authorise the transfer of part of the Undertaking of the Brynmawr and Abertillery Gas and Water Company to the Abertillery Local Board to regulate the Capital and Powers of the Company and for other purposes. (Abertillery Local Board (Gas and Water).)

lxx. An Act to extend the limits of supply of the South Hants Waterworks Company and to confer further powers upon that Company and for other purposes. (South Hants Water.)

lxxi. An Act to empower the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company to abandon the construction of a portion of certain Works authorised by the Newcastle and Gateshead Waterworks Act 1889, and to construct a New Reservoir and Works in lieu thereof and for other purposes. (Newcastle and Gateshead Water.)

lxxii. An Act for transferring the Mersey Railway Company with respect to the classification of merchandise traffic and the schedule of maximum rates and charges from the Order applicable to the Taff Vale Railway Company to the Order applicable to the East London Railway Company. (Mersey Railway (Rates and Charges).)

lxxiii. An Act to further extend the time for the compulsory purchase of lands and for the completion of the tramways authorised by the Harrow Road and Paddington Tramways Act 1891. (Harrow Road and Paddington Tramways.)

lxxiv. An Act to provide for the constitution of the City and Royal Burgh of Dundee as a County of a City and to confer various powers on the Lord Provost Magistrates and Town Council for affording greater facilities for transacting the public business of the said City and Burgh and for other purposes. (Dundee Corporation.)

lxxv. An Act to confer further powers upon the Great Northern Railway Company with respect to their own undertaking and to vest in that Company the undertaking of the Hunslet Railway Company to empower the Stamford and Essendine Railway Company to lease their undertaking to the Great Northern Railway Company to vest the undertaking of the Halifax High Level Railway Company in the Great Northern Railway Company and the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company jointly and for other purposes. (Great Northern Railway.)

lxxvi. An Act to confer further powers on the Tottenham and Forest Gate Railway Company and for other purposes. (Tottenham and Forest Gate Railway.)

lxxvii. An Act to extend the time for the completion of certain authorised railways of the South Yorkshire Junction Railway Company and revive the powers for the purchase of lands for such railways and for other purposes. (South Yorkshire Junction Railway.)

Royal Assent, 20th July, 1894.

lxxviii. An Act to authorise the transfer of the Undertaking of the Kendal Union Gas and Water Company to the Corporation of Kendal the construction of Additional Waterworks and for other purposes. (Kendal Corporation Gas and Water.)

lxxix. An Act to explain section 23 of the Barry Dock and Railways Act 1888 and for other purposes. (Barry Dock and Railways Act, 1888 (Amendment).)

lxxx. An Act to confer further powers on the Cornwall Minerals Railway Company. (Cornwall Minerals Railway.)

lxxxi. An Act to confer further powers upon the Manchester Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway Company the Manchester South Junction and Altrincham Railway Company and the Wigan Junction Railway Company and for other purposes. (Manchester Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway.)

lxxxii. An Act for the abandonment of the unexecuted works of the East and West Yorkshire Union Railways Company for the reduction of the authorised share and loan capital of that Company and to empower them to raise further money and for other purposes. (East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.)

lxxxiii. An Act to authorise the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the borough of Neath in the county of Glamorgan to acquire the undertaking of the Neath Water Company to construct Waterworks and supply Water and for other purposes. (Neath Corporation Water.)

lxxxiv. An Act to empower the Commissioners of the City and Royal Burgh of St. Andrews to acquire the Links of St. Andrews for a Public Park and Recreation Ground and for other purposes. (St. Andrews Links.)

lxxxv. An Act to authorise the transfer of the Leicestershire and Northamptonshire Union Canal and of the Grand Union Canal to the Company of Proprietors of the Grand Junction Canal and for other purposes. (Leicestershire and Northamptonshire Union and Grand Union Canals (Transfer).)

lxxxvi. An Act to confer further powers on the Charing Cross Euston and Hampstead Railway Company and for other purposes. (Charing Cross, Euston and Hampstead Railway.)

lxxxvii. An Act for authorising the Cordoba Central Railway Company Limited to prepare and carry into effect a scheme of arrangement with its debenture stockholders creditors or shareholders or any class or classes of such persons and for other purposes. (Cordoba Central Railway Company (Limited).)

lxxxviii. An Act to extend the time for completing and opening the Lambourn Valley Railway and for other purposes. (Lambourn Valley Railway.)

lxxxix. An Act for making a Carriage Road in Tunnel under part of the town of Scarborough to connect the south shore with the north shore and for other purposes. (Scarborough (Shore to Shore) Tunnel.)

xc. An Act to enable the Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Company to raise additional capital for the City of Dublin Junction Railways and for the Dublin Wicklow and Wexford Railway to confer further powers on the Company and for other purposes. (Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway and City of Dublin Junction Railways.)

xci. An Act to empower the Corporation of Gloucester to construct additional waterworks to consolidate the parishes within the city and to make better provision for the health local government and improvement of the city and for other purposes. (Gloucester Corporation.)

xcii. An Act for conferring further Powers upon the London and North Western Railway Company in relation to their own Undertaking and other Undertakings in which they are interested jointly with other Companies and also for conferring Powers upon the Great Western Railway Company the Shropshire Union Railways and Canal Company and the Dundalk Newry and Greenore Railway Company in relation to such other Undertakings and for other purposes. (London and North Western Railway.)

xciii. An Act for vesting the undertaking of the Longton Adderley Green and Bucknall Railway Company in the North Staffordshire Railway Company and for other purposes. (Longton, Adderley Green, and Bucknall Railway (Transfer).)

xciv. An Act to authorise the making of a Bridge over the River Conway in the counties of Denbigh and Carnarvon at Talycafn and approach roads thereto and for other purposes. (Talycafn Bridge.)

xcv. An Act for making a Tramroad in the county of Glamorgan in connexion with the undertaking of the Pontypridd Waterworks Company and for other purposes. (Pontypridd Waterworks (Tramroad).)

xcvi. An Act to confer Additional Powers upon the Midland Railway Company and the Midland and Great Northern Railways Joint Committee for the Construction of Works and the Acquisition of Lands to make provision for the ranking of the existing and of future Debenture Stock and Mortgages of the Midland Railway Company and for other purposes. (Midland Railway.)

xcvii. An Act to empower the Local Board of Swinton in Yorkshire to improve their existing Water Supply and to confer further powers on the Local Board. (Swinton Local Board.)

xcviii. An Act to confer further powers on the Hebden Bridge Gas Company. (Hebden Bridge Gas.)

xcix. An Act for conferring further powers upon the Corporation of Wakefield in relation to their Waterworks Undertaking and for other purposes. (Wakefield Corporation Water.)

c. An Act for incorporating the Budleigh Salterton Railway Company and for other purposes. (Budleigh Salterton Railway.)

ci. An Act to make further provision for the extension enlargement maintenance and repair of the Wallasey Embankment and for other purposes. (Wallasey Embankment.)

cii. An Act to confer further powers upon the Milford Docks Company and for other purposes. (Milford Docks.)

ciii. An Act to make provisions with respect to the constitution and management of Cheltenham College. (Cheltenham College.)

civ. An Act to confer further powers on the London Brighton and South Coast Railway Company and for other purposes. (London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway.)

cv. An Act to authorise the Swansea Harbour Trustees to enlarge and extend the Prince of Wales Dock at Swansea and for other purposes. (Swansea Harbour.)

cvi. An Act to incorporate Commissioners and to transfer to and vest in them the Harbour Undertaking of the Trustees for the District and Harbour of Maryport to alter the constitution of such Trustees and for other purposes. (Maryport Harbour.)

P. cvii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, relating to the Town of Fermoy. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 1).)

P. cviii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, relating to the Urban Sanitary District of Athlone. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 5).)

P. cix. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, and the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, relating to the Urban Sanitary District of the Pembroke Township. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 13).)

P. cx. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Local Government Board for Ireland under the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, relating to the Urban Sanitary District of the Township of Kingstown. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 14).)

P. cxi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Collieston, Fraserburgh, Polperro, and Whitelinks. (Pier and Harbour Orders Confirmation (No. 2).)

P. cxii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Avoch, Burnmouth, Loch Efort, and Poole. (Pier and Harbour Orders Confirmation (No. 3).)

P. cxiii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Montrose. (Pier and Harbour Order Confirmation (No. 4).)

P. cxiv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Crystal Palace District, Oswestry, Plymouth, Shropshire (Shrewsbury), Wakefield, and Yeadon. (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 3).)

P. cxv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Aberdare, Birmingham, Chelmsford, and Guildford. (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 4).)

P. cxvi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Clonmel and Moss Side (Collier Marr). (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 5).)

P. cxvii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, relating to Bolsover Gas, Earby and Thornton Gas, Ilford Gas, and Willenhall Gas. (Gas Orders Confirmation.)

P. cxviii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, relating to Newquay (Cornwall) Gas, North Bierley Gas, Uttoxeter Gas, and Worthing Gas. (Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2).)

P. cxix. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, relating to Bishop's Waltham Water, Blandford Water, East Surrey Water, Tilehurst, Pangbourne, and District Water, and West Cheshire Water. (Water Orders Confirmation.)

P. cxx. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Bradford (Yorks) and Saint George, and the Rural Sanitary Districts of the Belper Union the Bromsgrove Union, the Wakefield Union, and the Township of Saddleworth. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 7).)

P. cxxi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Chorley, the Fulstone and Hepworth, the Leigh, and the Pontefract Joint Hospital Districts. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 9).)

P. cxxii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Abram, Stockport, and Wilsden. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 10).)

P. cxxiii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Birmingham, Brighton, Burnley, Darwen, Lancaster, and Sheffield. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 11).)

P. cxxiv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Counties of the Isle of Wight, London, and West Sussex, and to the Boroughs of Margate and Tunbridge Wells. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 12).)

P. cxxv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Isle of Thanet and Stone Joint Hospital Districts, and to the Leigh and Atherton and the Stalybridge and Dukinfield Joint Sewerage Districts. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 13).)

P. cxxvi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Middleton and Preston. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 16).)

P. cxxvii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board relating to the Haslingden, Rawtenstall, and Bacup Outfall Sewerage District. (Local Government Board's Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 19).)

P. cxxviii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board, under the provisions of the Poor Law Act, 1889, and the Public Health Act, 1875, relating to the Metropolitan Asylum District. (Local Government Board's Provisional Order Confirmation (Poor Law).)

Royal Assent, 31st July, 1894.

P. cxxix. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Blackburn, Blackpool (two), and Stalybridge, and to the Rural Sanitary District of the Blackburn Union. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 14).)

P. cxxx. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board relating to the County of Dorset. (Local Government Board's Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 17).)

P. cxxxi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary District of King's Lynn (two), the Burnley Joint Hospital District, and the West Kent Main Sewerage District. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 18).)

cxxxii. An Act to authorise the London Tramways Company (Limited) to extend their tramways and for other purposes. (London Tramways Company (Limited).)

cxxxiii. An Act to confer further powers on the South Eastern Railway Company and for other purposes. (South Eastern Railway.)

cxxxiv. An Act to constitute and incorporate a Gas and Water Board for the Borough of Accrington and the Districts of the Local Boards of Church Clayton-le-Moors Great Harwood and Rishton in the County Palatine of Lancaster to transfer to and vest in such Board the undertaking of the Accrington Gas and Waterworks Company and for other purposes. (Accrington District Gas and Water Board.)

cxxxv. An Act to empower the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Huddersfield to construct a temporary Tramroad for the purposes of their Waterworks Undertaking. (Huddersfield Waterworks Tramroad.)

cxxxvi. An Act to confer further Powers on the Lancashire Derbyshire and East Coast Railway Company in relation to their authorised Railways and Works to extend the time for purchasing land and completing some of those Railways and for other purposes. (Lancashire Derbyshire and East Coast Railway.)

cxxxvii. An Act to vest the undertakings of the Waterford and Wexford Railway Company and of the Rosslare Harbour Commissioners in the Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Company to authorise that Company to raise additional Capital to change their name and for other purposes. (Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours.)

cxxxviii. An Act to enable the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of King's Lynn to exercise further powers for the removal of wrecks and to raise additional Moneys for the removal of the wreck of the ship "Wick Bay" and for other purposes. (King's Lynn Corporation.)

cxxxix. An Act for the abandonment of certain railways authorised by the Mersey Railway Acts 1885 and 1887 and for other purposes. (Mersey Railway.)

cxl. An Act to provide for the transfer to the Mayor Aldermen and Citizens of the city and county of Newcastle-upon-Tyne of the undertaking of the Byker Bridge Company and for certain payments to the North Eastern Railway Company under an agreement dated the eleventh day of April one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight for the passage of foot passengers free of toll along the Railway Bridge over the Ouseburn Valley and for other purposes. (Newcastle-upon-Tyne Corporation (Byker Bridge, &c.).)

cxli. An Act to dissolve and re-incorporate and to confer further powers upon the Port Talbot Company and to authorise them to construct an additional Dock and Railways and for other purposes. (Port Talbot Railway and Docks.)

cxlii. An Act to authorise the payment from time to time of Interim Bonus by the Star Life Assurance Society to the holders of certain Policies. (Star Life Assurance Society's.)

cxliii. An Act for conferring further powers upon the Great Western Railway Company in respect of their own undertaking and upon that Company and the London and North Western Railway Company in respect of undertakings in which they are jointly interested for amalgamating the Tiverton and North Devon and the Oldbury Railway Companies with the Great Western Railway Company and for other purposes. (Great Western Railway (No 1).)

cxliv. An Act for the abandonment of the Brighton Rottingdean and Newhaven Direct Railway. (Brighton, Rottingdean, and Newhaven Direct Railway (Abandonment).)

cxlv. An Act for amending the River Suck Drainage Act 1889 and for other purposes. (River Suck Drainage.)

cxlvi. An Act to confer further powers on the Caledonian Railway Company in relation to their own Undertaking and on them and the Glasgow and South Western Railway Company in relation to the Glasgow Barrhead and Kilmarnock Joint Line to confirm an agreement with the Trustees of the late Robert Haldane to provide for the acquisition by the Caledonian Railway Company of the Forfar and Brechin Railway and for other purposes. (Caledonian Railway.)

cxlvii. An Act to extend the time for the compulsory acquisition of Lands under the provisions of the Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation Act 1889 and to make further provisions with respect to the Transfer to the Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation Company of certain of the Canal Undertakings of the Manchester Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway Company. (Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation.)

cxlviii. An Act for conferring further Powers on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company with relation to their own Undertaking and upon that Company and the London and North Western Railway Company with relation to the Preston and Wyre Railway and for other purposes. (Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway.)

cxlix. An Act to extend the time for the completion of the authorised railways of the Easton and Church Hope Railway Company and for other purposes. (Easton and Church Hope Railway (Extension of Time).)

cl. An Act to confer further powers on the Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland Company and for other purposes. (Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland.)

cli. An Act to authorise the Lord Provost Magistrates and Council of the City of Edinburgh to widen alter and improve North Bridge and North Bridge Street within the said City to acquire lands to make a new road and for other purposes. (Edinburgh North Bridge Improvement.)

clii. An Act to authorise the North British Railway Company to construct new Railways and acquire additional lands and to empower that Company and the Kirkcaldy and District Railway Company to widen a certain bridge to extend the time limited by certain Acts for the compulsory purchase of lands and the completion of works to abandon portion of an authorised Railway to confirm an Agreement between the Caledonian Railway Company the Great North of Scotland Railway Company the Aberdeen Joint Station Committee and the North British Railway Company as to the use by the latter Company of the joint passenger station at Aberdeen to confirm certain other Agreements between the Corporation of Edinburgh the Bank of Scotland the Edinburgh School Board and the North British Railway Company to make provisions for the prevention of trespass and for other purposes. (North British Railway.)

cliii. An Act to confer additional powers upon the North Eastern Railway Company and upon that Company and the London and North Western Railway Company for the construction of new Railways and other Works and the acquisition of additional Lands for transferring to the North Eastern Railway Company the powers of the Wear Valley Extension Railway Company and for other purposes. (North Eastern Railway.)

cliv. An Act for empowering the Bute Docks Company to construct Seawalls or Embankments and a new Dock and other works and to raise additional capital and for amending the Bute Docks Acts and for other purposes. (Bute Docks.)

clv. An Act to authorise the Bristol Tramways and Carriage Company Limited to make additional Tramways and to confer further powers upon that Company. (Bristol Tramways.)

clvi. An Act to empower the West Highland Railway Company to construct an Extension of their Railway from Banavie to Mallaig with a Pier and other Works in connection therewith and for other purposes. (West Highland Railway.)

Royal Assent, 17th August, 1894.

clvii. An Act to authorise the Aberdeen District Tramways Company to construct additional Tramways to amend the Acts relating to the Company and for other purposes. (Aberdeen District Tramways.)

clviii. An Act to confer further powers on the Consett Waterworks Company and for other purposes. (Consett Waterworks.)

clix. An Act to extend the time for the completion of the Dundee Suburban Railway and for other purposes. (Dundee Suburban Railway.)

clx. An Act for making improved provisions with reference to the exercise by the Corporation of the City of Liverpool of their Statutory Borrowing Powers and for other purposes. (Liverpool Corporation Loans.)

clxi. An Act to enable the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the County Borough of Cardiff to construct and maintain additional Waterworks Street Road and Bridge Improvements and to make further provisions for the improvement health and good government of the Borough and for other purposes. (Cardiff Corporation.)

clxii. An Act to authorise the East London Waterworks Company to execute further Works and to raise further Money in order to enable them to fulfil their statutory obligations relating to the supply of water or otherwise and to meet the increased demand for water within their district to give effect to an Agreement between the Company and the persons entitled to or claiming Lammas or Common Rights over certain Lands acquired by the Company in the parish of Low Leyton otherwise Saint Mary Leyton in the County of Essex to confer further powers upon and make further provision with respect to the Undertaking of the Company and to amend the Acts relating to them and for other purposes. (East London Waterworks.)

clxiii. An Act to regulate the Expenditure of Money by the London County Council on capital account during the current financial period and the Raising of Money to meet such Expenditure. (London County Council (Money).)

clxiv. An Act to authorise the Southwark and Vauxhall Water Company to acquire Lands construct additional Works and raise additional Capital and for other purposes. (Southwark and Vauxhall Water.)

clxv. An Act to authorise the Company of Proprietors of the West Middlesex Waterworks to raise additional capital and for other purposes. (West Middlesex Waterworks.)

clxvi. An Act to make more effectual provision for preventing the pollution of the Rivers of the West Riding of Yorkshire and their tributaries. (West Riding of Yorkshire Rivers.)

clxvii. An Act to enable the Barry Railway Company to construct a new Railway and other works and for other purposes. (Barry Railway.)

clxviii. An Act to extend the Periods limited by the Clyde Navigation Act 1891 for the Compulsory Purchase of Lands and for the completion of the Railway thereby authorised to confer further powers on the Trustees of the Clyde Navigation with respect to Rates and for other purposes. (Clyde Navigation.)

clxix. An Act to confer further powers on the Manchester Ship Canal Company. (Manchester Ship Canal.)

clxx. An Act to amend the Peterhead Harbours Act 1873 the Peterhead Harbours Amendment Act 1876 and the Peterhead Harbours Order 1881 to confer further powers upon the Trustees of the Harbours of Peterhead and for other purposes. (Peterhead Harbours.)

clxxi. An Act to empower the South Staffordshire Mines Drainage Commissioners to impose a charge on Mines belonging to certain collieries as collateral security for money raised by them and to amend the Acts relating to the said Commissioners. (South Staffordshire Mines Drainage.)

clxxii. An Act for empowering the Taff Vale Railway Company to construct a new Railway and other works and acquire lands for vesting in that Company the undertaking of the Cowbridge and Aberthaw Railway Company and for other purposes. (Taff Vale Railway.)

clxxiii. An Act to reconstitute the Board of Directors of the West Lancashire Railway Company for raising further moneys and for other purposes. (West Lancashire Railway.)

clxxiv. An Act to authorise the Glasgow District Subway Company to raise additional capital to confer on them further powers with reference to their surplus lands and properties and for the acquisition of additional lands to extend the time for the completion of their authorised undertaking and for other purposes. (Glasgow District Subway (Further Powers).)

clxxv. An Act for conferring further powers on the Preston Gas Company. (Preston Gas.)

clxxvi. An Act to authorise the reconstruction of Glasgow Bridge the erection of a weir or tidal dam across the River Clyde the construction of tramways and for other purposes. (Glasgow Bridge, &c.)

clxxvii. An Act to provide for the transfer to the Great Western Railway Company of a portion of the authorised undertaking of the Plymouth and Dartmoor Railway Company and for other purposes. (Great Western Railway (No. 2).)

clxxviii. An Act to amend the Nottingham Corporation Loans Act, 1880, and for other purposes. (Nottingham Corporation.)

clxxix. An Act to empower the Oxford and Aylesbury Tramroad Company to deviate part of the tramroad authorised by the Oxford and Aylesbury Tramroad Act 1888 as amended by the Oxford and Aylesbury Tramroad Act 1892 to revive the powers and extend the time for the Purchase of Lands for and for the completion of the remainder of the said Tramroad authorised by the said Acts and for other purposes. (Oxford and Aylesbury Tramroad.)

clxxx. An Act to authorise the Construction of a Bridge over the River Dee at Queen's Ferry in the County of Flint and the discontinuance of the existing Ferry at that place to make provision with respect to the Maintenance and Repair of Roads now repairable by the Dee Land Company in the Counties of Flint and Chester and the City of Chester and for other purposes. (Queen's Ferry Bridge.)

clxxxi. An Act to enable the Local Boards for the districts of Old Swindon and of Swindon New Town both in the county of Wilts to acquire and vest the Undertaking of the Swindon Waterworks Company Limited in a Water Board to authorise the construction of Additional Waterworks for the supply of Water and for other purposes. (Swindon Water.)

clxxxii. An Act to empower the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Bangor to construct a Pier and other works to maintain improve enlarge and extend the Garth Wharf Jetty to acquire the Garth Ferry and to improve and extend the Landing Place connected therewith situate in the parish of Llandegfan and County of Anglesey and for other purposes. (Bangor Corporation (Pier, &c.).)

clxxxiii. An Act to make provision as to the funds held in trust for the holders of certificates guaranteed by the Tramways Capital Guarantee Company Limited and for other purposes. (Tramways Capital Guarantee Company Limited.)

clxxxiv. An Act to authorise the Central Middlesex Water Company Limited to sell and transfer a portion of their Undertaking to the Colne Valley Water Company and for other purposes. (Central Middlesex Water.)

clxxxv. An Act to empower the London County Council to make Street Improvements to Purchase Lands and to acquire the Garden in Lincoln's Inn Fields to Extend the Time Limited for certain authorised Improvements and for other Purposes. (London County Council (Improvements).)

clxxxvi. An Act to authorise the North Cornwall Railway Company to deviate certain parts of their Railway and to construct new Railways and for other purposes. (North Cornwall Railway.)

clxxxvii. An Act to amend the constitution of and consolidate amend and extend the Statutory Powers of the Conservators of the River Thames to make further provision for the preservation and improvement of the said River for purposes of Navigation for Profit and Pleasure and as a Source of Water Supply for the Metropolis and the Suburbs thereof and for other purposes. (Thames Conservancy.)

clxxxviii. An Act to revive the Powers and Extend the Time for the Compulsory Purchase of Land and Completion of Works authorised by the Plymouth and Dartmoor Railway Act 1883 the Plymouth and Dartmoor Railway (South Hams Extension) Act 1888 and the Plymouth and Dartmoor Railway Act 1891 and for other purposes. (Plymouth and Dartmoor Railway.)

clxxxix. An Act for vesting in the Great Western and Midland Railway Companies the undertaking of the Severn and Wye and Severn Bridge Railway Company and for other purposes. (Great Western and Midland Railway Companies (Severn and Wye and Severn Bridge Railway).)

cxc. An Act to revive the Powers and further extend the Time for the compulsory purchase of Lands and to extend the Time limited for the completion of the Exeter Teign Valley and Chagford Railway. (Exeter, Teign Valley, and Chagford Railway (Extension of Time).)

P. cxci. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Tramways Act, 1870, relating to Barrow-in-Furness Corporation Tramways, Liverpool and Walton-on-the-Hill Tramways, and Liverpool Corporation Tramways (Extensions). (Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1).)

P. cxcii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Tramways Act, 1870, relating to Croydon Corporation Tramways, Croydon Tramways (Extensions), and South Staffordshire Tramways. (Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2).)

P. cxciii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Bolton and St. Helens, and to the Wisbech and Walsoken Main Sewerage District. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 15).)

P. cxciv. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Education Department under the Elementary Education Act, 1870, to enable the School Board for London to put in force the Lands Clauses Acts. (Education Department Provisional Order Confirmation (London).)

P. cxcv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Education Department under the Elementary Education Act, 1870, to enable the School Boards for Barry United District, Brotherton, Hornsey, Low Leyton, Liverpool, Sutton (Surrey), West Ham, Willesden, and York to put in force the Lands Clauses Acts. (Education Department Provisional Orders Confirmation (Barry, &c.).)

P. cxcvi. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, containing the Classification of Merchandise Traffic, and the Schedule of Maximum Tolls and Charges applicable thereto, for the Canals of the Great Northern and certain other Railway Companies. (Canal Tolls and Charges, No. 1 (Canals of the Great Northern and certain other Railway Companies) Order Confirmation.)

P. cxcvii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, containing the Classification of Merchandise Traffic, and the Schedule of Maximum Rates, Tolls, and Charges applicable thereto, for the Bridgewater Canals Undertaking of the Manchester Ship Canal Company, and for certain other Canals. (Canal Rates, Tolls, and Charges, No. 2 (Bridgewater, &c. Canals) Order Confirmation.)

P. cxcviii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, containing the Classification of Merchandise Traffic, and the Schedule of Maximum Tolls and Charges applicable thereto, for the Aberdare Canal Navigation, and certain other Canals. (Canal Tolls and Charges, No. 3 (Aberdare, &c. Canals) Order Confirmation.)

P. cxcix. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, containing the Classification of Merchandise Traffic, and the Schedule of Maximum Tolls and Charges applicable thereto, for the Regent's Canal. (Canal Tolls and Charges, No. 5 (Regent's Canal) Order Confirmation.)

P. cc. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, containing the Classification of Merchandise Traffic, and the Schedule of Maximum Tolls and Charges applicable thereto, for the River Ancholme Navigation, and certain other Canals. (Canal Tolls and Charges, No. 7 (River Ancholme, &c.) Order Confirmation.)

P. cci. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, containing the Classification of Merchandise Traffic, and the Schedule of Maximum Tolls and Charges applicable thereto, for the River Cam Navigation, and certain other Canals. (Canal Tolls and Charges, No. 8 (River Cam, &c.) Order Confirmation.)

P. ccii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, containing the Classification of Merchandise traffic, and the Schedule of Maximum Tolls and Charges applicable thereto, for the Canals of the Caledonian Railway Company and of the North British Railway Company. (Canal Tolls and Charges, No. 9 (Canals of the Caledonian and North British Railway Companies) Order Confirmation.)

P. cciii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, containing the Classification of Merchandise Traffic, and the Schedule of Maximum Rates, Tolls, and Charges applicable thereto, for the Grand Canal. (Canal Rates, Tolls, and Charges, No. 11 (Grand Canal) Order Confirmation.)

ROYAL ASSENT, 25th August, 1894.

P. cciv. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, containing the Classification of Merchandise Traffic, and the Schedule of Maximum Tolls and Charges applicable thereto, for the Birmingham Canal Navigations. (Canal Tolls and Charges, No. 4 (Birmingham Canal) Order Confirmation.)

P. ccv. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, containing the Classification of Merchandise Traffic, and the Schedule of Maximum Tolls and Charges applicable thereto, for the River Lee Navigation, and certain other Canals. (Canal Tolls and Charges, No. 6 (River Lee, &c.) Order Confirmation.)

P. ccvi. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, containing the Classification of Merchandise Traffic, and the Schedule of Maximum Tolls and Charges applicable thereto, for the Lagan Canal, and certain other Canals. (Canal Tolls and Charges, No. 10 (Lagan, &c. Canals) Order Confirmation.)

ccvii. An Act for confirming the making by the Furness Railway Company of an outfall sewer and for conferring further powers on the Company for the acquisition of Lands the raising of Capital and otherwise in relation to their undertaking and for reducing the light duties levied by the Commissioners and Trustees of the Port of Lancaster and making further provision for the division between those Commissioners and Trustees and the Company of a portion of the light duties and for other purposes. (Furness Railway.)

ccviii. An Act for confirming an agreement for the acquisition by the Harrow District Gas Company of the undertaking of the Great Stanmore Gas Company Limited to extend the limits of supply of the first-mentioned Company to authorise them to raise additional capital to confer further powers upon them and to alter their name and for other purposes. (Harrow and Stanmore Gas.)

ccix. An Act to confer further Powers upon the Mayor Aldermen and Citizens of the City of Manchester in the county of Lancaster with respect to Street Improvements and other Works and the Acquisition of Lands and for other purposes. (Manchester Corporation.)

ccx. An Act to confer further Powers on the Plymouth and Stonehouse Gas Light and Coke Company and for other purposes. (Plymouth and Stonehouse Gas.)

ccxi. An Act for making a Railway from Birmingham to Stratford-upon-Avon and for other purposes. (Birmingham, North Warwickshire, and Stratford-upon-Avon Railway.)

ccxii. An Act to make further provisions with respect to the use of Fire Hydrants Byelaws as to conveyance of Explosives over the Ferries of the London County Council enforcement of Ferry Byelaws the protection of Sewers and contribution towards Paddington Recreation Ground. (London County Council (General Powers).)

ccxiii. An Act to consolidate and amend the Enactments relating to Streets and Buildings in London. (London Building.)

ccxiv. An Act for making Railways in the County and County of the City of Dublin and for other purposes. (Drumcondra and North Dublin Link Railway.)

ccxv. An Act for making a Railway between Ealing and South Harrow in the County of Middlesex and for other purposes. (Ealing and South Harrow Railway).

ccxvi. An Act for making a Railway from London to Walthamstow and Epping Forest and for other purposes. (London, Walthamstow, and Epping Forest Railway.)

PRIVATE ACTS,

PRINTED BY THE QUEEN'S PRINTER,

AND WHEREOF THE PRINTED COPIES MAY BE GIVEN IN EVIDENCE.

1. AN Act to enable money to be raised by Mortgage for Improvement of the Bathwick Estate and the Wrington Estate in the County of Somerset Devised by the Will of the Most Noble Harry George Powlett late Duke of Cleveland deceased. (Bathwick and Wrington Estates.)
2. An Act to confer further powers on the Executors and Trustees of the Will of the late Thomas Andrew Walker in relation to his real and personal estate. (Walker's Estate.)

PRIVATE ACTS,

NOT PRINTED.

An Act to dissolve the Marriage of John Minchin Whitaker of Cove House Sandycove Kingstown in the County of Dublin Surgeon with Catherine Anne Whitaker his now Wife and to enable him to Marry again and for other purposes. (Whitaker's Divorce.)

An Act to dissolve the Marriage of Arnold Felix Graves of 41 Raglan Road Dublin Barrister-at-Law with Constance Louise Graves his present wife and to enable him to Marry again and for other purposes. (Graves' Divorce.)

An Act to restore Justina Clementina Boeheim or Von Roemer to British Nationality and to confer upon her all the rights privileges and capacities of a natural-born subject of Her Majesty the Queen. (Von Roemer's Resumption of British Nationality.)

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE, SESSION 1894.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable the House of Commons,
dated 31 July 1894;—*for*,

RETURN "of the Number of Days on which THE HOUSE SAT in the Session of 1894, stating, for each Day, the Date of the Month, and Day of the Week, the Hour of the Meeting, and the Hour of Adjournment; and the Total Number of Hours occupied in the Sittings of The House, and the Average Time; and showing the Number of Hours on which The House Sat each Day, and the Number of Hours after Midnight; and the Number of Entries in each Day's Votes and Proceedings (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0.176, of Session 1893-94)."

(*Dr. Farquharson.*)

Month.	Day.	House met.		House adjourned.		Hours of Sitting.		H'rs after Midnight		Entries in Votes.
1894.		H.	M.	H.	M.	H.	M.	H.	M.	
Mar. 12	M.	1	30	12	30	11	0	0	30	56
" 13	Tu.	3	0	1	20	10	20	1	20	44
" 14	Wd.	12	0	4	40	4	40	-	-	29
" 15	Th.	3	0	12	40	9	40	0	40	101
" 16	Fr.	3	0	1	0	10	0	1	0	258
" 19	M.	3	0	12	35	9	35	0	35	51
" 20	Tu.	3	0	12	5	9	5	0	5	64
" 21	Wd.	12	0	5	30	5	30	-	-	52
" 22	Th.	2	0	4	10	2	10	-	-	29
" 24	Sat.	12	0	12	35	0	35	-	-	12
" 29	Th.	3	0	12	10	9	10	0	10	88
" 30	Fr.	3	0	12	5	9	5	0	5	31
Total…	12	-	-	-	-	90	50	4	25	815
April 2	M.	3	0	12	10	9	10	0	10	49
" 3	Tu.	3	0	11	58	8	58	-	-	36
" 4	Wd.	12	0	5	40	5	40	-	-	37
" 5	Th.	3	0	12	35	9	35	0	35	44
" 6	Fr.	3	0	8	10	5	10	-	-	26
" 9	M.	3	0	12	20	9	20	0	20	66
" 10	Tu.	3	0	12	20	9	20	0	20	51
" 11	Wd.	12	0	5	57	5	57	-	-	46
" 12	Th.	3	0	12	25	9	25	-	25	52
" 13	Fr.	2	0	11	45	9	45	-	-	53
" 16	M.	3	0	2	30	11	30	2	30	62
" 17	Tu.	3	0	1	20	10	20	1	20	80
" 18	Wd.	12	0	5	59	5	59	-	-	51
" 19	Th.	3	0	12	58	9	58	0	58	56
1894.		H.	M.	H.	M.	H.	M.	H.	M.	
April 20	Fr.	2	0	12	10	10	10	0	10	63
" 23	M.	3	0	12	10	9	10	0	10	67
" 24	Tu.	3	0	12	10	9	10	0	10	59
" 25	Wd.	12	0	5	58	5	58	-	-	68
" 26	Th.	3	0	12	15	9	15	0	15	58
" 27	Fr.	2	0	10	10	8	10	-	-	54
" 30	M.	3	0	12	20	9	20	0	20	90
Total…	21	-	-	-	-	181	20	7	43	1,168
May 1	Tu.	3	0	12	5	9	5	0	5	61
" 2	Wd.	12	0	5	55	5	55	-	-	74
" 3	Th.	3	0	12	10	9	10	0	10	56
" 4	Fr.	2	0	10	25	8	25	-	-	38
" 7	M.	3	0	12	25	9	25	0	25	94
" 8	Tu.	3	0	12	5	9	5	0	5	78
" 9	Wd.	12	0	5	55	5	55	-	-	78
" 10	Th.	3	0	1	50	10	50	1	50	107
" 21	M.	3	0	12	15	9	15	0	15	91
" 22	Tu.	3	0	12	15	9	15	0	15	74
" 23	Wd.	12	0	5	40	5	40	-	-	68
" 24	Th.	3	0	1	0	10	0	1	0	71
" 25	Fr.	2	0	12	10	10	10	0	10	90
" 28	M.	3	0	1	20	10	20	1	20	101
" 29	Tu.	3	0	12	59	9	59	0	59	80
" 30	Wd.	12	0	5	45	5	45	-	-	76
" 31	Th.	3	0	12	45	9	45	0	45	62
Total…	17	-	-	-	-	147	59	7	19	1,299

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE, SESSION 1894.

Month.	Day.	House met.		House adjourned.		Hours of Sitting.		H'rs after Midnight.		Entries in Votes.
1894.		H.	M.	H.	M.	H.	M.	H.	M.	
June 1	Fr.	3	0	12	15	9	15	0	15	79
,, 4	M.	3	0	12	30	9	30	0	30	101
,, 5	Tu.	3	0	12	20	9	20	0	20	83
,, 6	Wd.	12	0	5	50	5	50	-	-	59
,, 7	Th.	3	0	12	25	9	25	0	25	84
,, 8	Fr.	3	0	12	15	9	15	0	15	50
,, 11	M.	3	0	12	50	9	50	0	50	97
,, 12	Tu.	3	0	12	15	9	15	0	15	57
,, 13	Wd.	12	0	5	40	5	40	-	-	67
,, 14	Th.	3	0	12	25	9	25	0	25	63
,, 15	Fr.	3	0	12	20	9	20	0	20	82
,, 18	M.	3	0	12	35	9	35	0	35	106
,, 19	Tu.	3	0	12	10	9	10	0	10	69
,, 20	Wd.	12	0	5	50	5	50	-	-	63
,, 21	Th.	3	0	12	55	9	55	0	55	55
,, 22	Fr.	3	0	12	50	9	50	0	50	65
,, 25	M.	3	0	12	30	9	30	0	30	88
,, 26	Tu.	3	0	12	15	9	15	0	15	68
,, 27	Wd.	12	0	6	8	6	8	-	-	19
,, 28	Th.	3	0	12	30	9	30	0	30	102
,, 29	Fr.	3	0	12	20	9	20	0	20	48
Total...	21	-	-	-	-	184	8	7	40	1,505
		H.	M.	H.	M.	H.	M.	H.	M.	
July 2	M.	3	0	12	20	9	20	0	20	84
,, 3	Tu.	3	0	12	10	9	10	0	10	54
,, 4	Wd.	12	0	5	35	5	35	-	-	47
,, 5	Th.	3	0	12	5	9	5	0	5	54
,, 6	Fr.	3	0	12	15	9	15	0	15	47
,, 9	M.	3	0	12	15	9	15	0	15	92
,, 10	Tu.	3	0	12	1	9	1	0	1	45
,, 11	Wd.	12	0	5	40	5	40	-	-	52
,, 12	Th.	3	0	12	40	9	40	0	40	54
,, 13	Fr.	3	0	12	20	9	20	0	20	55
,, 16	M.	3	0	12	30	9	30	0	30	91
1894.		H.	M.	H.	M.	H.	M.	H.	M.	
July 17	Tu.	3	0	12	35	9	35	0	35	51
,, 18	Wd.	12	0	5	40	5	40	-	-	62
,, 19	Th.	3	0	12	15	9	15	0	15	49
,, 20	Fr.	3	0	12	15	9	15	0	15	40
,, 23	M.	3	0	12	25	9	25	0	25	80
,, 24	Tu.	3	0	12	5	9	5	0	5	47
,, 25	Wd.	12	0	5	35	5	35	-	-	54
,, 26	Th.	3	0	12	10	9	10	0	10	64
,, 27	Fr.	3	0	12	20	9	20	0	20	57
,, 30	M.	3	0	12	20	9	20	0	20	73
,, 31	Tu.	3	0	12	20	9	20	0	20	59
Total...	22	-	-	-	-	189	51	5	21	1,311
Aug. 1	Wd.	12	0	5	40	5	40	-	-	46
,, 2	Th.	3	0	12	15	9	15	0	15	58
,, 3	Fr.	3	0	12	25	9	25	0	25	41
,, 6	M.	3	0	12	10	9	10	0	10	65
,, 7	Tu.	3	0	12	40	9	40	0	40	43
,, 8	Wd.	12	0	5	40	5	40	-	-	48
,, 9	Th.	3	0	12	15	9	15	0	15	42
,, 10	Fr.	3	0	12	25	9	25	0	25	52
,, 13	M.	3	0	12	45	9	45	0	45	47
,, 14	Tu.	3	0	12	30	9	30	0	30	53
,, 15	Wd.	12	0	5	40	5	40	-	-	46
,, 16	Th.	3	0	12	35	9	35	0	35	46
,, 17	Fr.	3	0	1	15	10	15	1	15	43
,, 18	Sat.	12	0	9	45	9	45	-	-	14
,, 20	M.	3	0	*4	0	13	0	4	0	30
,, 21	Tu.	3	0	2	15	11	15	2	15	59
,, 22	Wd.	12	0	6	30	6	30	-	-	23
,, 23	Th.	3	0	6	45	3	45	-	-	29
,, 24	Fr.	12	0	12	30	0	30	-	-	15
,, 25	Sat.	9	0	—		—		—		—
Total...	20	-	-	-	-	157	0	11	30	800

* A.M.

SUMMARY.

Month.	Number of Days Sitting.	Number of Hours Sitting.		Number of Hours after Midnight.		Number of Entries in Votes.
SESSION 1894 :		H.	M.	H.	M.	
March	12	90	50	4	25	815
April	21	181	20	7	43	1,168
May	17	147	59	7	19	1,299
June	21	184	8	7	40	1,505
July	22	189	51	5	21	1,311
August	20	157	0	11	30	800
Total	113	951	8	43	58	6,898

Average Length of Sitting, Daily, 8 Hours $25\frac{3}{113}$ Minutes.

DIVISIONS OF THE HOUSE.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,

dated 31 July 1894.

"Distinguishing the DIVISIONS on PUBLIC BUSINESS from PRIVATE; and also the Divisions before and after Midnight (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0.170, of Session 1893-4)."

SUMMARY OF DIVISIONS.

Number of Divisions on Public Business before Midnight - - - -	210
Ditto - - - - after Midnight - - - -	26
Ditto Private Business before Midnight - - - -	10
Ditto - - - after Midnight - - - -	0
Total Number of Divisions in Session 1894 - - - -	246

PUBLIC BILLS.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,

dated 31 July 1894;—*for*,

RETURN "of the Number of PUBLIC BILLS, introduced into this House, or brought from the House of Lords, during the Session of 1894; showing the Number which received the Royal Assent; the Number which were Passed by this House, but not by the House of Lords; the Number Passed by the House of Lords, but not by this House: and distinguishing the Stages at which such Bills as did not receive the Royal Assent were Dropped or Postponed and Rejected in either House of Parliament (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0.173 of Session 1893–94)."

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Total Number of Bills which received the Royal Assent:		
(1.) Introduced into this House - - - - - - -	48	
(2.) Brought from the Lords - - - - - - -	12	
(3.) Provisional Order Bills - - - - - - - -	70	
		130
Total Number of Bills introduced into, but not passed by, the Commons -		194
Total number of Bills brought from the Lords, but not passed by the Commons - - - - - - - - - - - -		5
Total Number of Bills passed by the Commons, but not by the Lords -		3
TOTAL - -		332

PRIVATE BILLS.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 31 July 1894;—*for*

RETURN "of the Number of PRIVATE BILLS introduced and brought from the HOUSE of LORDS, and of ACTS passed in the Session of 1894, classed according to the following Subjects:—Railways; Tramways; Tramroads; Subways; Canals and Navigations; Roads and Bridges; Water; Gas; Gas and Water; Improvement; Police and Sanitary Regulations; Corporations, &c. (not relating to Police and Sanitary Regulations, or to Lighting and Improvement Schemes); Ports, Piers, Harbours, and Docks; Churches, Chapels, and Burying Grounds; Inclosure and Drainage; Estate; Naturalization; Divorce; and Miscellaneous:" (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0.172, of Session 1893-4)."

NUMBER of PRIVATE BILLS which have received the ROYAL ASSENT.

Railways	54
Tramways	4
Tramroads	3
Subways	1
Canals and Navigations	7
Roads and Bridges	5
Water	16
Gas	9
Gas and Water	4
Improvement	2
Police and Sanitary Regulations	6
Corporations, &c. (*not relating to Police and Sanitary Regulations, or to Lighting and Improvement Schemes*)	7
Ports, Piers, Harbours, and Docks	10
Churches, Chapels, and Burying Grounds	—
Gaols and other County Buildings	—
Inclosure and Drainage	2
Estate	2
Naturalization	1
Divorce	2
Miscellaneous	16
TOTAL	151

GENERAL SUMMARY

Of Returns relating to Private Bills for Session 1894.

(A.)—The Number of Private Bills *introduced in the House of Commons* - - - - -	86
(B.)—The Number of Private Bills brought from the House of Lords (*originating in that House under Standing Order 79*) - - - - - - - - - -	70
(C.)—Estate Bills, &c., brought from the Lords - - - - - - - - - - -	5
Total - - -	161
(D.)—The Number of Private Bills which have received the Royal Assent - - - -	151
(E.)—The Number of Private Bills which have been treated as Opposed, or classified in Groups by the Committee of Selection, or by the General Committee on Railway and Canal Bills - - - - - - - - - - - - -	87
(F.)—The Number of Private Bills referred to the Chairman of Ways and Means by the Committee of Selection, or by the General Committee on Railway and Canal Bills	154

Note.—This does not include 12 Canal Rates, Tolls, and Charges Provisional Order Bills referred to a Joint Committee of Lords and Commons.

PUBLIC PETITIONS.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 31 July 1894;—*for*

RETURN "of the Number of Public Petitions Presented and Printed in the Session of 1894; with the Total Number of Signatures in that year (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0.174, of Session 1893-4)."

Year.	Number of Petitions Presented.	Number of Petitions Printed.	Total Number of Signatures.
1894	2,245	125	278,622

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

DAYS OCCUPIED BY GOVERNMENT AND BY PRIVATE MEMBERS.

SUMMARY OF RETURN

To an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 31st July, 1894.

(1.) The Number of Sittings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, at which Government Business had Precedence.	(2.) The Number of Sittings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, at which Private Members had Precedence.	(3.) The Number of other Sittings at which, in accordance with the Standing Orders of the House, Government Business had Precedence.	(4.) The Number of Sittings at which Government Business had Precedence under a Special Order of the House.	(5.) The Number of Saturday Sittings.	(6.) The Total Number of Sittings at which Government Business. had Precedence.	(7.) The Total Number of Days on which the House Sat.	(8.) The Total Number of Motions for Adjournment of the House on a Matter of Urgent Public Importance.	(9.) Number of Days in Supply.
TOTALS…… 53 *	17 †	44	51	3 ‡	100 §	113	5	22

* Excluding 12 March, First day of Meeting.
† Of which 5 were Evening Sittings only.
‡ At all the Saturday Sittings Government Business had precedence.
§ Of which 5 were Morning Sittings only.

GENERAL INDEX

TO

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION),

In the Third Session of the Twenty-Fifth Parliament of the

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

57° & 58° VICTORIÆ.

1894.

Explanation of Abbreviations.

Bills, Read 1ª, 1°, 2ª, 2°, 3ª, 3°. Read the First, Second, or Third Time.
1R., 2R., 3R. Speech delivered on First, Second, or Third Reading.
Adj. Adjourned.
A. Answers.
c. Commons.
Com. Committee.
com. Committed.
Intro. Introduction.
l. Lords.
Obs. Observations.
Pres. Presented.
Q. Questions.
Rep. Reported.
R.P. Report Progress.
Res. Resolutions.

The proceedings relating to Private Bills have only been reported where discussion has occurred. In the *Table of the Statutes*, bound with this Vol., a complete Record will be found of these Bills.

The subjects of Debate, as far as possible, are classified under General Headings, *e.g.* :—

AFRICA
AGRICULTURE, BOARD OF
ARMY
CHARITY COMMISSION
CIVIL SERVICE
CUSTOMS, EXCISE, AND INLAND REVENUE
EDUCATION
INDIA
IRELAND
LABOUR DEPARTMENT
LAW AND JUSTICE AND POLICE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD
MERCHANT SHIPPING
METROPOLIS
NAVY
PARLIAMENT
POST OFFICE
SCOTLAND
SUPPLY
TRADE, BOARD OF
WALES

Each number in brackets denotes the Volume, and numbers following the bracket numbers have reference to the pages of that Volume.

ABRAHAM, Mr. W., *Cork, N.E.*
Ireland
  Gort Hurling Club Band [28] 137
  Killavullen National School [23] 1585
  Magisterial Bench, Relations on [29] 365

ABRAHAM, Mr. W., *Glamorgan, Rhondda*
Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, Com. [28] 812, 823, 824, 833, 834

Access to Mountains (Scotland) Bill
c. Motion for Leave (Mr. Bryce); Objection taken; Motion postponed *July* 17 [27] 274

Accidents
Police Removing Dead Bodies, Q. Mr. Lough; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 28 [24] 1401

Accountant General's Department
(See under *Navy*)

Accountants Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Atherley-Jones; Read 1° *June* 19 [25] 1544
[Dropped]

ACLAND, Right Hon. A. H. D. (Vice President of the Council on Education), *York, W.R., Rotherham*
Anderby Church School, Lincolnshire [27] 1261
Art Classes—Qualification of Teachers [24] 470
Ashperton and Canon Ffrome National Schools [27] 1129
Atherington National School [26] 441
Atherton, Free Education at [23] 1090
Attendance Prizes [23] 846
Bamley-in-the-Willows National School [27] 656
Bermondsey, St. James's School [28] 988
Buckfast Abbey School [29] 163
Butley School, Suffolk [28] 1245
Camberwell School Accommodation [22] 562
Carbolic Acid, Deaths from [23] 968
Charities of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxford [22] 1587
Charity Commission and the Local Government Act [22] 1002
Charity Commissioners—Mr. Austie [22] 903
Cheadle Schools [23] 613, 972
Chelsea Board School [24] 808
Christ's Hospital [22] 1430
Cleckheaton School Accommodation [27] 19, 1138
College of Science, Dublin [26] 437
Cotteridge School, Worcestershire [22] 446
Darwen Trinity Infant School [27] 1257
Denominational Teaching in Elementary Schools [26] 1194
Dinder Charity Lands [23] 186
Drink, Board School Lessons on [22] 1005; [29] 422
Eastbourne School Accommodation [22] 337
Edinburgh Museum Attendants [24] 1392
Education Code [23] 217, 218, 337, 338, 741, 742, 743, 744; Res., 951, 953; [29] 164
Education Report [26] 1077
Elementary Education Bill, Intro. [26] 513; 2R., 1436; [27] 115; Withdrawal [28] 649
Elementary Education (Exemption from School Attendance) Bill, 2R. [23] 169
Evening School Code [23] 1101, 1204, 1223; [24] 373; Res., 1500, 1634
Exemptions from School Attendance [29] 169
Exton School [26] 1488
Feckenham National School [27] 661
Flitwick School Board [22] 561; [25] 415
Geldeston Church School [26] 1066
Gnarlford National Schools [28] 249
Grants [22] 693; [25] 567; [26] 1473; [27] 661, 1138, 1560; [28] 997; [29] 163
[*cont.*

ACLAND, Right Hon. A. H. D.—*cont.*
Gresham University Commission Report, [28] 474
Greystoke School, Cumberland [26] 950
Guernsey—Primary Education [25] 814
Gymnastic Apparatus for Rural Schools [25] 804
Hagbourne, North, Church Schools [26] 1187
Halsham School, Yorkshire [26] 1079
Hammersmith Board School [23] 1415
Hampstead, Christ Church National School [25] 593
Hanbury Charity, Langton [25] 22
Hartshill School Room [28] 1244
Hay National Schools [29] 25
Hereford—St. James's National School [23] 631
Herefordshire Charities [29] 11
Hever Schools [27] 657; [28] 772
Highbury Vale School [22] 1592
Horwich National School [24] 1268
Hunslet, St. Silas' School [23] 1579
Incomes—Public Elementary Schools, Return [29] 17
Inspectors, Elementary School Teachers as [22] 330
Kensington Local Examinations [27] 550
Kew and Dublin Botanic Gardens [27] 658
Kilburn, St. Augustine's Boys' School [27] 25
Lambeth School Accommodation [27] 1001
Liscard, Cheshire, School [22] 310
London Board Schools, Overcrowding in [24] 1150
Lowestoft Schools [27] 1133, 1581; [28] 777
Matlock School [22] 309; [23] 1677
Munster Square Schools [24] 1170
Non-Board School Improvements, Res. [22] 961
Old Age Provident Pensions Bill, 2R. [22] 1372
Paddington, St. James's School [28] 259
Preston, Holy Trinity National Schools [29] 162
Public Elementary School Return [22] 311
Radway School [29] 13
Ratley Elementary School [28] 984
Reach National School, Swaffham's Prior [28] 767
Romford, St. Edward's National School [28] 437
Ross Board School [25] 683
St. Botolph Charities [25] 399
St. Pancras—Free Education [23] 1422
St. Paul's School [25] 789
School Attendance Committees [26] 1194
School Board Debts [24] 236
School Board Rates and Extra Grants [25] 567
Science and Art Department Directory [24] 1530; [28] 464
Science and Art Department Writers [23] 1680
[*cont.*

ACLAND, Right Hon. A. H. D.—*cont.*
Science and Art Examinations in Scotland [25] 1207
Secondary Education Commission [22] 1583; [23] 199, 200
Sedgwick School, Westmoreland [25] 567
Smith's School Charity, Nuneaton [25] 1623
Sopley British School [23] 201
South Kensington Museum—Antique Casts [24] 227, 762
Stroud School Board [23] 1222

Supply
  Circulars asking for Subscription in Lieu of Fees [22] 380
  Education Department—Voluntary Schools, &c. [22] 381, 385, 386, 390, 801, 802, 806, 809, 821, 829
  Lowestoft Schools [27] 1489
  Public Education [29] 180, 191, 199, 200, 201
  Science and Art Department [29] 216
  South Kensington Museum [22] 1078
  Training Colleges [22] 390

Teachers
  Article 73 of the New Code [23] 837
  Scarcity of [22] 692
  Superannuation [23] 1447; [28] 251
Tenbury National School [24] 229
Thrift in Elementary Schools [22] 1508
Training Colleges [23] 1583
Ulverston National School [28] 438
University Colleges Report [26] 1077
Unwieldy Classes in London Schools [25] 807

Voluntary Schools
  Accounts [22] 692; [25] 594
  Alterations [29] 165
  Education Department Requirements [27] 1581
  Grants (*see* that sub-heading)
Wakefield, St. John's School [29] 17

Wales
  Bishop of St. Asaph and Mr. Acland [27] 1575
  Coed-y-Pain School [24] 1169
  Denbighshire Intermediate Education Scheme [27] 1137
  Grants to Public Elementary Schools [27] 1138
  Intermediate Education Schemes [23] 620
  Llanarth National School [25] 1352
  Rhuddlan School, St. Asaph [27] 1252
  School Inspectors [22] 1505
  Uzmaston School [25] 1465
Waltham, St. Lawrence School [28] 461
Warned Schools [22] 146, 345
Westminster School Accommodation [27] 1001

ACLAND-HOOD, Captain Sir A., *Somerset, Wellington*
Army (Annual) Bill, Com. [23] 564
Army Estimates
  Clothing [26] 971
  Foreign Meat [25] 1043
  Rifle Ranges [25] 1003
  Wellington Barracks [26] 1037, 1101, 1105

ACLAND-HOOD, Captain Sir A.—*cont.*
Discharged and Reserve Soldiers, Employment for, Res. [22] 511
Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 858; Com. [25] 972
Foreign and Colonial Meat Bill, Intro. [22] 453
Sergeant Instructors of Volunteers and Railway Fares [22] 566
Waziri Expedition Medal [27] 671

Acts of Parliament, Dilatory Publication of
Q. Sir J. Leng; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 19 [27] 359

ADDISON, Mr. J. E. W., *Ashton-under-Lyne*
Ashton-under-Lyne Sewerage Scheme [25] 792
Established Church (Wales) Bill, Motion for Leave [23] 1517

Adjournment Motions under Standing Order 17
Return ordered *July* 26 [27] 1108

Admiralty (see *Navy*)

Advertisements, Importation of
Qs. Mr. Farquharson, Mr. Tomlinson; As. Mr. Bryce *July* 3 [26] 795; Q. Mr. Farquharson; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 20 [27] 548

Advertisements Regulation Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Boulnois; Read 1° *April* 10 [23] 111

AFGHANISTAN
Sir M. Durand's Mission—Papers, Q. Mr. Curzon; A Mr. H. H. Fowler *Mar* 15 [22] 336
War Promotions, Q. Sir S. King; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 25 [26] 118

AFRICA
African Companies—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Mar* 15 [22] 391
Anglo-Belgian Agreement
  Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 22 [24] 999; Q. Sir C. Dilke; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 25, 1274; Qs. Sir G. Baden-Powell, Mr. Labouchere; As. Sir E. Grey *May* 28, 1420; Q. Sir C. Dilke; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 31 [25] 29; Qs. Sir C. Dilke, Mr. Labouchere; As. Sir E. Grey *June* 1, 171; Qs. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir C. Dilke; As. Sir E. Grey *June* 8, 693; Q. Mr. J. W. Lowther; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 11, 805; Qs. Sir C. Dilke, Commander Bethell; As. Sir E. Grey *June* 14, 1082; Qs. Sir C. Dilke; As. Sir E. Grey *June* 14, 1092; *June* 19, 1472; Q. Mr. J.

AFRICA—*cont.*

Anglo-Belgian Agreement—cont.

Chamberlain; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 26 [26] 244; Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Sir E. Grey *July* 2, 694; Q. Mr. Stuart-Wortley; A. Sir E. Grey *July* 16 [27] 28; Qs. Sir G. Baden-Powell; As. Sir E. Grey, Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 17, 170; Q. Mr. J. W. Lowther; A. Sir E. Grey *July* 17, 173; Q. Sir C. Dilke; A. Sir E. Grey *July* 19, 378; Qs. Sir C. Dilke, Sir A. Rollit, Mr. J. W. Lowther, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; As. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 16 [28] 1251

Copies pres. May 21 [24] 996; *June* 11 [25] 892

France, Q. Commander Bethell; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 1 [25] 174; Q. Mr. J. W. Lowther; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 11, 805; Qs. Commander Bethell, Sir C. Dilke; As. Sir E. Grey *June* 14, 1082; Qs. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; As. Sir E. Grey *June* 14, 1095; *June* 21, 1636; Q. Mr. Stuart-Wortley; A. Sir E. Grey *July* 16 [27] 30

(See also sub-heading *Franco-Congolese Agreement*)

Free Transit of Goods, &c., through the Congo, Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 28 [26] 448

Germany, Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 25 [26] 118

Zobehr Pasha, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Sir E. Grey *July* 30 [27] 1264

(References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *July* 30 [27] 1310, &c.; *Aug* 17 [28] 1460, &c.; *Aug* 22 [29] 334, &c.; 338, &c.)

Anglo-French Agreement, Qs. Mr. J. W. Lowther, Mr. Labouchere; As. Sir E. Grey *June* 1 [25] 173

Anglo-German Railway in South West Africa, Q. Mr. W. Isaacson; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 19 [25] 1472

Anglo-Italian Convention, Qs. Mr. J. W. Lowther, Mr. Labouchere; As. Sir E. Grey *June* 1 [25] 173; Qs. Mr. Labouchere, Sir C. Dilke; As. Sir E. Grey *June* 4, 312

Anglo-Portuguese Treaty, Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Sir E. Grey *Mar* 20 [22] 695

Arms and Ammunition Traffic—Brussels Act, &c., Q. Mr. J. W. Lowther; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 11 [25] 813; Q. Commander Bethell; A. Sir E. Grey *July* 16 [26] 1478; Q. Mr. J. W. Lowther; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 3 [28] 18

Bechuanaland

Commission, Q. Mr. A. O'Connor; A. Mr. Buxton *Mar* 15 [22] 317; Q. Mr. Knox; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 7 [25] 582

Disturbances, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. Buxton *April* 23 [23] 1097

Protectorate, Q. Mr. Knox; A. Mr. Buxton *April* 12 [23] 186

Railway, Q. Mr. Knox; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 9 [28] 450; References to, in Debate on the *Appropriation Bill*, *Aug* 23 [29] 397, 401, 402

British East Africa Company, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 23 [23] 1079; Q. Mr. J. W. Lowther; A.

[*cont.*

AFRICA—*cont.*

British East Africa Company—cont.

Sir E. Grey *May* 10 [24] 756; Q. Mr. Lawrence; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 22 [29] 279; Qs. Mr. Lawrence, Mr. A. C. Morton, Sir W. Lawson, Mr. Storey, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, Mr. Tomlinson, Mr. Cremer, Sir C. Dilke; As. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 23, 374

(References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *July* 30 [27] 1315, &c.)

British Goods in South Africa—Cape Customs Duties, &c., Qs. Colonel H. Vincent; As. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 22 [26] 18; *July* 12, 1478; Q. Sir J. Lubbock; A. Mr. Buxton *July* 24 [27] 811

British South Africa Company

Q. Mr. Crosfield; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 30, [23] 1662; Qs. Mr. Knox; As. Mr. Buxton *Aug* 9 [28] 450; *Aug* 23 [29] 385

Vote for, *Aug* 22 [29] 337; Qs. Sir C. Dilke, Mr. Buchanan; As. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 20 [29] 26

Congo Free State Agreement (see sub-heading *Anglo-Belgian Agreement*)

Darfur and Equatoria—Egyptian Rights, Qs. Mr. J. Chamberlain, Mr. Labouchere; As. Sir E. Grey *June* 1 [25] 174

Darfur, Equatorial Provinces—French Occupation of, Q. Mr. Tomlinson; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 21 [29] 177

Delagoa Bay Railway, Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 5 [22] 1451

East Africa

Agreements, Qs. Mr. J. W. Lowther, Mr. Labouchere, Commander Bethell; As. Sir E. Grey *June* 1 [25] 173

British East Africa Company (see that sub-heading)

British Sphere of Influence, Qs. Sir G. Baden-Powell, Mr. Labouchere; As. Sir E. Grey *May* 28 [24] 1420

Southern Portion Map, Copy pres. *April* 18 [23] 812

Franco-Congolese Agreement, Qs. Sir C. Dilke, Sir A. Rollit, Mr. J. W. Lowther, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; As. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 16 [28] 1251

(References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 17 [28] 1467, &c.; *Aug* 22 [29] 334, 338, &c.)

Kaba Rega (see under sub-heading *Unyoro*)

Kassala—Occupation of by Italians, Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Sir E. Grey *July* 23 [27] 666

Kerckhoven's Expedition, Q. Commander Bethell; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 9 [22] 1576

Lado—Congo Free State Expedition, &c., Q. Commander Bethell; A. Sir E. Grey *Mar* 20 [22] 699

Madagascar

Alleged Outrage on British Indians, Q. Mr. Naoroji; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 9 [28] 447

British Subjects in, Q. Mr. Tritton; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 12 [25] 921

[*cont.*

AFRICA—*cont.*

Mails, South African, Q. Mr. Conybeare ; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 5 [23] 1461

Manica Plateau and the Portuguese, Q. Mr. J. W. Lowther ; A. Sir E. Grey *Mar* 19 [23] 584

Marotsiland and the British South Africa Company, Q. Mr. Crosfield ; A. Sir E Grey *April* 30 [23] 1662

Mashonaland—Fort Victoria Incident, Q. Mr. J. E. Ellis ; A. Mr. Buxton *April* 17 [23] 624 ; Q. Mr. Byles ; A. Mr. Buxton *Aug* 17 [28] 1387

Matabele War
- *Honourable Mention and Distinctions*, Q. Mr. Macdona ; A. Mr. Buxton *May* 10 [24] 764
- *Lobengula's Messengers*, Qs. Mr. J. E. Ellis ; As. Mr. Buxton *April* 17 [23] 622 ; *June* 5 [25] 422
- *Wounded Matabele, Alleged Ill-treatment of*, Q. Mr. S. Leighton ; A. Mr. Buxton *May* 28 [24] 1411

Matabeleland
- *Jameson, Dr.*, Q. Mr. J. E. Ellis ; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 5 [25] 408
- *Papers Relating to*, Q. Baron H. de Worms ; A. Mr. Buxton *Mar* 13 [22] 147
- *Settlement of*, Q. Mr. Labouchere ; A. Mr. Buxton *April* 17 [23] 626

Matabeleland and Mashonaland Agreement—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *July* 31 [27] 1480, &c.

N'Gamiland Concession, Qs. Mr. Knox ; As. Mr. Buxton *June* 7 [25] 581 ; *June* 19, 1458

Niger Company
- *Customs Duty*, Q. Mr. J. W. Lowther ; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 11 [25] 812
- *Customs Union*, Q. Mr. Lawrence ; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 26 [26] 229
- *Trade Accounts*, Qs. Sir C. Dilke ; As. Sir E. Grey *June* 4 [25] 300 ; *June* 18, 1339
- (References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 17 [28] 1460, &c.)

Nile Waterway
- *Anglo-Belgian Agreement* (see that sub-heading)
- *Foreign Expeditions*, Qs. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett ; As. Sir E. Grey *May* 10 [24] 756 ; *May* 21, 914 ; *May* 22, 999

Nyassaland, Gunpowder in (see sub-heading *Arms and Ammunition Traffic*)

Nyassaland and the Oil Rivers Protectorate, Qs. Sir C. Dilke, Commander Bethell ; As. Sir E. Grey *June* 1 [25] 180

Oil Rivers Protectorate—Customs Union, Q. Mr. Lawrence ; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 26 [26] 229

Pemba Clove Plantations, Q. Mr. J. A. Pease ; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 10 [24] 758

Pondoland, Annexation of, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell ; A. Mr. Buxton *Mar* 20 [22] 689 ; Q. Mr. Whiteley ; A. Mr. Buxton *April* 5, 1437 ; Q. Commander Bethell ; A. Mr. Buxton *April* 9, 1577 ; Qs. Mr. Whiteley ; As. Mr. Buxton *May* 8 [24] 591 ; *June* 14 [25] 1080
- (References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *July* 31 [27] 1468, &c.)

Recruiting—British West African Colonies, Qs. Mr. J. A. Pease, Sir G. Baden-Powell ; As. Sir E. Grey *May* 28 [24] 1415

Sierra Leone
- *Conflict between French and British Forces at Warina*, Qs. Captain Bagot, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett ; As. Sir E. Grey *Mar* 20 [22] 694 ; Q. Captain Bagot ; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 7 [25] 566 ; Q. Sir E. Ashmead Bartlett ; A. Sir E. Grey *July* 13 [26] 1574 ; Qs. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, Mr. J. W. Lowther ; As. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 14 [28] 994
- *Defence of*, Q. Sir C. Dilke ; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 26 [27] 1002
- *Expedition against the Sofas*, Q. Mr. Picton ; A. Mr. Buxton *Mar* 13 [22] 144

Sir E. Hertslet's Map and Book of Reference, Q. Mr. J. W. Lowther ; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 4 [25] 292

Sir Francis Scott's Expedition, Q. Mr. J. W. Lowther ; A. Mr. Buxton *July* 24 [27] 793

Slave Trade
- Qs. Mr. Labouchere, Mr. J. A. Pease, Mr. Darling ; As. Sir E. Grey *May* 8 [24] 601 ; Q. Mr. J. A. Pease ; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 10, 757
- *Freed Slaves*, Q. Sir R. Temple ; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 19 [23] 861
- *H.M. Ships Stationed on the East Coast*, Q. Mr. J. A. Pease ; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *April* 24 [23] 1214
- *Juba River—Runaway Slave Settlement*, Q. Mr. A. Gibbs ; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 23 [23] 1079
- *Nyassaland*, Q. Mr. J. A. Pease ; A. Sir E. Grey *July* 10 [26] 1297
- *Portuguese Territories in West Africa*, Q. Mr. J. A. Pease ; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 4 [25] 285
- *Vote for, and Debate on*, *Aug* 22 [29] 330
- *Zanzibar Waters*, Q. Mr. J. A. Pease ; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 25 [26] 117
- (References to, in Debate on the *Uganda Vote*, *June* 1 [25] 234, &c. ; *Aug* 22 [29] 324, &c.)

South Africa, Vote for, Con. in Com. *Aug* 20 [29] 99

South African Convention, Q. Sir C. Dilke ; A. Mr. Buxton *July* 24 [27] 797

Suakim-Berber Railway Plant, Q. Mr. Caine ; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 18 [25] 1350

Swaziland—Cession, &c., Qs. Baron H. de Worms ; As. Mr. Buxton *Mar* 13 [22] 146 ; *April* 19 [23] 863 ; *April* 26, 1428 ; *May* 3 [24] 223 ; Q. Mr. Webster ; A. Mr. Buxton *May* 10, 762 ; Obs. Marquess of Ripon, Lord Knutsford *June* 29 [26] 517 ; Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell ; A. Mr. Buxton *July* 10, 1300 ; Qs. Mr. Cayzer ; As. Mr. Buxton *July* 12, 1477 ; *July* 23 [27] 668
- (References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 18 [28] 1507, &c.)

[*cont.*

AFRICA—*cont.*
  Telegrams—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Mar* 15 [22] 362
  Transvaal
   British Subjects, Q. Mr. Tomlinson; A. Mr. Buxton *Aug* 21 [29] 166; Qs. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, Dr. Clark, Mr. Tomlinson; As. Mr. Buxton *Aug* 22, 282
   Commandeering, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. Buxton *May* 24 [24] 1183; Qs. Mr. Macdona, Mr. Darling; As. Mr. Buxton *June* 14 [25] 1079; Qs. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir G. Baden-Powell; As. Mr. Buxton *June* 21, 1637; Qs. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir D. Macfarlane, Mr. Bartley, Mr. Darling; As. Mr. Buxton *June* 22 [26] 17; Qs. Mr. Darling, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, Mr. Webster; As. Mr. Buxton, Sir W. Harcourt *June* 25, 127; Qs. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, Mr. Darling, Mr. Webster; As. Mr. Buxton *June* 26, 240; Qs. Mr. J. W. Lowther, Mr. Darling; As. Mr. Buxton *June* 28, 449; Qs. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, Mr. Webster, Sir G. Baden-Powell; As. Mr. Buxton *June* 28 [26] 450; Q. Lord Knutsford; A. The Marquess of Ripon *June* 29, 517; Q. Mr. Goschen; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 29, 570; Qs. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, Mr. Webster, Sir G. Baden-Powell, Mr. Darling; As. Mr. Buxton *July* 2, 683; Qs. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir G. Baden-Powell; As. Mr. Buxton *July* 10 [26] 1296; Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Mr. Buxton *July* 12, 1479; Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Mr. Buxton *July* 24 [27] 813; Qs. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; As. Mr. Buxton *Aug* 9 [28] 461; *Aug* 10, 561
   Franchise Law, Qs. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, Mr. Tomlinson; As. Mr. Buxton *Aug* 2 [27] 1574; Q. Mr. Tomlinson; A. Mr. Buxton *Aug* 21 [29] 165
   Gold Mining Industry, Qs. Mr. Conybeare, Captain Norton; As. Mr. Buxton *June* 21 [25] 1630; Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 25 [26] 125
   Nolk's Vereeniging, Q. Mr. Cayzer; A. Mr. Buxton *May* 28 [24] 1397
   Public Meeting, Restricting Rights of, Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Mr. Buxton *July* 19 [27] 380; Qs. Mr. Tomlinson, Mr. W. Johnston; As. Mr. Buxton *July* 24, 804; Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Mr. Buxton *July* 26, 1019
   Thrashing the Blacks, Q. Mr. S. Smith; A. Mr. Buxton *Mar* 20 [22] 683
   (References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *July* 31 [27] 1461, &c.; *Aug* 18 [28] 1490, &c.)
  Uganda
   Q. Mr. Labouchere; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 8 [24] 601; Q. Mr. J. W. Lowther; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 10, 756; Q. and Obs. Lord Stanmore, Earl of Kimberley *June* 11 [25] 779
   British East Africa Company's Treaties, Q. Mr. Lawrence; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 23 [23] 1091
   Captain Macdonald's Report, Q. Mr. Matthews; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 17 [23] 620

AFRICA—*cont.*
  Uganda—cont.
   Debate on, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 1 [24] 48; Q. Sir C. Dilke; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 21, 913
   Maps of, Q. Mr. Labouchere; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 7 [24] 487
   Motion for Address (Lord Stanmore) *Aug* 20 [29] 1
   Motion for Papers (Lord Stanmore) *June* 1 [25] 133
   Papers Relating to, Q. Mr. J. Chamberlain; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 12 [23] 222
   Railway, Qs. Mr. A. J. Balfour; As. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 4 [25] 312; Q. Mr. Caine; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 18, 1350
   Sir G. Portal's Reports, Q. Sir J. Fergusson; A. Sir E. Grey *Mar* 13 [22] 141; Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Sir E. Grey *Mar* 15, 343; Qs. Sir G. Baden-Powell, Sir J. Kennaway; As. Sir E. Grey *April* 6, [22] 1516; Qs. Sir G. Baden-Powell, Mr. Crawford; As. Sir E. Grey *April* 9, 1581; Qs. Mr. Webb, Mr. W. Johnston, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Labouchere; As. Sir E. Grey *April* 13 [23] 339; Qs. Sir G. Baden-Powell, Sir C. Dilke; As. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 20, 982; Qs. Mr. J. Chamberlain, Sir J. Fergusson; As. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 23 [23] 1095; Qs. Mr. A. Smith, Sir G. Baden-Powell; As. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 23, 1104
   Statement by the Earl of Rosebery *April* 12 [23] 180
   Statement by Sir W. Harcourt *April* 12 [23] 223
   Vote for, Qs. Sir C. Dilke; As. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 19 [23] 856; *May* 7 [24] 487; Qs. Sir C. Dilke, Mr. Buchanan; As. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 20 [29] 26
   Votes for, Con. in Com. *June* 1 [25] 181; *Aug* 22 [29] 333
   White Fathers, Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Sir E. Grey *April* 12 [23] 212; *April* 13, 336
   (References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Mar* 15 [22] 391, &c.; *Aug* 17 [28] 1466, &c.; *Aug* 22 [29] 332)
  Umtali
   Arrest of Mr. Taylor, Q. Mr. E. J. C. Morton; A. Mr. Buxton *Mar* 20 [22] 701
   Queen Chikanga's Consort, Q. Mr. Knox; A. Mr. Buxton *Mar* 19 [22] 562
  Umtassa's Country Magistrates, Q. Mr. E. J. C. Morton; A. Mr. Buxton *Mar* 20 [22] 700
  Unyoro
   Q. Mr. Labouchere; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 5 [25] 412; Q. Mr. Yerburgh; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 8, 689
   Colonel Colville, Qs. Commander Bethell, Sir G. Baden-Powell; As. Sir E. Grey *Mar* 20 [22] 700
   Kaba Rega, Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 13 [23] 338; Q. Lord R. Churchill; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 7 [24] 487; Q. Mr. W. Isaacson; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 4 [25] 284; Q. Mr. Crosfield; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 12, 906

AFRICA—*cont.*

Wadelai
Q. Mr. Labouchere; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 5 [25] 412
British Protectorate, Q. Mr. Labouchere; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 8 [24] 601
Hoisting the British Flag, Qs. Sir G. Baden-Powell, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; As. Sir E. Grey *May* 8 [24] 599
Maps of, Qs. Mr. Labouchere, Sir C. Dilke, Sir G. Baden-Powell; As. Sir E. Grey *May* 8 [24] 602
Papers Relating to, Q. Mr. W. Isaacson; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 10 [24] 810

Warina (see sub-heading *Sierra Leone*)

Zambesi—Collision with Portuguese Troops, Qs. Mr. J. Lowther, Sir A. Rollit; As. Sir E. Grey *Mar* 19 [22] 583

Zanzibar
Indemnity Bill (see title *Zanzibar Indemnity Bill*)
Protectorate, Q. Sir R. Temple; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 23 [23] 1077
Slave Trade (see that sub-heading)
Tariff Dues, Q. Mr. Lawrence; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 29 [24] 1540

Zulu Prisoners, &c., Q. Commander Bethell; A. Mr. Buxton *April* 9 [22] 1576

Africa (No. 3, 1894)

Copy pres. *April* 18 [23] 812

Africa (No. 5, 1894)

Copy pres. *June* 11 [25] 892

Aged Poor Commission

Q. Mr. Logan; A. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 10 [26] 1310

Agricultural Departments of Foreign Countries (Commercial, 1 to 3, 1894)

Copy pres. *May* 21 [24] 996

Agricultural Depression

Amendt. to Address in Answer to Queen's Speech (Colonel H. Vincent) *Mar* 12 [22] 75; Q. Sir E. Lechmere; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 12 [23] 224

Essex
Qs. Mr. Round, Mr. Dodd, Captain Naylor-Leyland, Major Rasch; As. Mr. Gardner, Sir W. Harcourt *May* 24 [24] 1184; Q. Major Rasch; A. Mr. Gardner *May* 25, 1274; Q. Colonel Lockwood; A. Mr. Gardner *June* 11 [25] 800
Derelict Land, Map of, Qs. Major Rasch; As. Mr. H. Gladstone *May* 25 [24] 1277; *May* 28, 1422
Motion for Adjournment of the House (Captain Naylor-Leyland) *June* 11 [25] 814
Tithes, Q. Mr. A. C. Morton; A. Mr. Gardner *May* 29 [24] 1524

Motion for Adjournment of the House (Major Rasch) *April* 13 [23] 342

Royal Commission, Copies pres. *April* 10 [23] 112; *April* 26, 1551; *May* 8 [24] 692

Agricultural Education in Elementary Schools Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Jesse Collings; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 457
Withdrawn *Aug* 1 [27] 1554

Agricultural Holdings Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Channing; Read 1° *May* 25 [24] 1364

[Dropped]

Agricultural Land—Budget Proposals

Q. Mr. Chaplin; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 24 [23] 1228

AGRICULTURE, BOARD OF

President—Mr. H. GARDNER

Agricultural Education in Wales—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 18, [28] 1548, &c.

Allotments (see that title)

Anthrax, Q. Mr. Fellowes; A. Mr. Gardner *April* 3 [22] 1250; Q. Major Rasch; A. Mr. Gardner *May* 10 [24] 775; Qs. Mr. Fellowes; As. Mr. Gardner *June* 5 [25] 418; *June* 18, 1346

Canadian Cattle Importation, Q. Sir J. Kinloch; A. Mr. S. Buxton *Mar* 15 [22] 308; Q. Dr. Farquharson; A. Mr. Gardner *Mar* 22, 866; Qs. Dr. Farquharson, Mr. Crombie, Mr. Arch, Mr. Maguire, Colonel Waring, Mr. S. Hill, Mr. Chaplin, Mr. Jeffreys, Mr. Whitelaw; As. Mr. Gardner *April* 23 [23] 1084; Qs. Mr. Maguire, Mr. Field, Mr. Chaplin, Mr. J. Lowther; As. Mr. Gardner *May* 1 [24] 32; Qs. Mr. Chaplin, Mr. Field; As. Mr. Gardner *May* 10, 773; Qs. Mr. Chaplin; As. Mr. Gardner *May* 24, 1154; *May* 25, 1279; Qs. Mr. Chaplin, Mr. Jeffreys; As. Mr. Gardner *May* 28, 1424; Q. Mr. Chaplin; A. Mr. Gardner *June* 1 [25] 176; Qs. Mr. Arnold-Forster, Mr. Macartney; As. Mr. Gardner *June* 5, 398; Qs. Mr. Chaplin, Colonel Waring; As. Mr. Gardner *June* 12, 919; Q. Mr. S. Keay; A. Mr. Gardner *June* 19, 1468; Q. Mr. Jeffreys; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 22 [26] 8; Q. Mr. J. E. Ellis; A. Mr. Gardner *July* 3, 781; Qs. Mr. Chaplin, Dr. Farquharson, Sir J. Leng; As. Mr. Gardner *July* 12, 1473; Q. Mr. J. E. Ellis; A. Mr. Gardner *July* 19 [27] 366; Q. Sir H. Maxwell; A. Mr. Gardner *Aug* 9 [28] 469
Debate on, *May* 29 [24] 1611
Pleuro-Pneumonia — Bacteriological Observations, Q. Dr. Farquharson; A. Mr. Gardner *May* 29 [24] 1533
Slaughter and Examination — Order of 1894, Copy pres. *May* 21 [24] 996
(References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *July* 30 [27] 1357)

Canine Rabies—Muzzling, Q. and Obs. Earl of Rosse, Lord Ribblesdale *July* 23 [27] 647

[*cont.*

AGRICULTURE, BOARD OF—cont.

Cattle Traffic—Through Rates, Q. Mr. Field ; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 6 [28] 134

Cattle Unloading, Cruelties in, Q. Mr. Everett ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 21 [29] 167

Cattle Weighbridges in Scotland and Ireland (see under titles SCOTLAND and IRELAND)

Chailey Common, Q. Mr. Byles ; A. Mr. Gardner *Aug* 7 [28] 258

Common Land Enclosures in Flintshire, Q. Mr. S. Smith ; A. Mr. Gardner *May* 8 [24] 590

Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts (1878 to 1893), Copies pres. *April* 26 [23] 1552 ; *May* 21 [24] 996 ; *Aug* 14 [28] 1084

Corn Returns, Q. Mr. Rankin ; A. Mr. Gardner *June* 28 [26] 453

County of London and Official Forms, Q. Mr. Benn ; A. Mr. Gardner *June* 8 [25] 691

Dartmoor Ponies, Disease among, Q. Mr. Mildmay ; A. Mr. Gardner *May* 7 [24] 467

Deptford Refrigerators, Q. Mr. Field ; A. Mr. Gardner *Aug* 7 [28] 247

Derelict Land in Essex, Qs. Major Rasch ; As. Mr. Gardner *May* 25 [24] 1277 ; *May* 28, 1422 ; Q. Sir C. Dilke ; A. Mr. Gardner *June* 18 [25] 1355

Diseased Sheep at Ardrishaig, Q. Sir D. Macfarlane ; A. Mr. Gardner *July* 13 [26] 1556

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs, Q. Mr. A. Cross ; A. Mr. Gardner *May* 25 [24] 1261

Foreign Meat, Marking of (see title *Marking of Foreign Meat*)

Forestry, Q. Mr. J. Collings ; A. Mr. Gardner *June* 22 [26] 6

Forestry Education in Wales, Q. Mr. Herbert Lewis ; A. Mr. Gardner *July* 20 [27] 561

Glanders in the Metropolis, Q. Mr. Fellowes ; A. Mr. Gardner *June* 18 [25] 1346

Glebe Lands Act, 1888, Sales under, Q. Sir J. Savory ; A. Mr. Gardner *June* 29 [26] 564

Gosport Foreign Animals Wharf, Q. Mr. Tomlinson ; A. Mr. Gardner *June* 21 [25] 1638

Journal for Agriculture, Qs. Mr. Cobb, Mr. J. Lowther, Mr. Dodd, Mr. Tomlinson ; As. Mr. Gardner *July* 19 [27] 378

Margarine Act, Q. Mr. H. Plunkett ; A. Mr. Gardner *Mar* 16 [22] 441

Mersey Docks

- *Cattle Disease, Precautions against*, Q. Mr. Field ; A. Mr. Gardner *July* 24 [27] 798
- *Cattle Trade*, Q. Mr. Field ; A. Mr. Gardner *Aug* 6 [28] 131
- *Cruelties in Unloading Cattle*, Q. Mr. Everett ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 21 [29] 167
- *Lairages*, Qs. Mr. Field ; As. Mr. Gardner *July* 19 [27] 372 ; *July* 26, 1011 ; *Aug* 6 [28] 145

AGRICULTURE, BOARD OF—cont.

Ordnance Survey

- *Maps*, Qs. Mr. Chaplin, Mr. Weir ; As. Mr. Gardner *May* 24 [24] 1181
- *Staff*, Q. Mr. Field ; A. Mr. Gardner *April* 10 [23] 28 ; Q. Mr. Labouchere ; A. Mr. Gardner *June* 15 [25] 1229 ; Qs. Mr. Field ; As. Mr. Gardner *June* 29 [26] 563 ; *Aug* 16 [28] 1256
- *Vote for*, Con. in Com. *May* 21 [24] 979

Pleuro-Pneumonia

- *Committee's Report*, Q. Colonel Waring ; A. Mr. Gardner *April* 24 [23] 1221
- *Kent*, Qs. Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen, Mr. Chaplin ; As. Mr. Gardner *May* 1 [24] 43 ; *May* 25, 1278 ; Qs. Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen ; As. Mr. Gardner *June* 5 [25] 429 ; *June* 15, 1229 ; *June* 19, 1468
- *Lord Ripon's Letter*, Q. Mr. Chaplin ; A. Mr. Gardner *May* 10 [24] 773

Publications

- Qs. Mr. H. Johnstone, Mr. Logan ; As. Mr. Gardner *May* 3 [24] 235 ; Q. Mr. Logan ; A. Mr. Gardner *June* 7 [25] 557
- *Leaflets*, Q. Mr. H. Johnstone ; A. Mr. Gardner *July* 12 [26] 1480
- *Leaflets*, Copy pres. *Mar* 12 [22] 127

Statistics, Q. Mr. Leese ; A. Mr. Gardner *May* 8 [24] 584

Swine Fever, Q. Commander Bethell ; A. Mr. H. Gardner *April* 19 [23] 840 ; Q. Mr. Chaplin ; A. Mr. Gardner *June* 11 [25] 808 ; Qs. Mr. H. Roberts ; As. Mr. Gardner *June* 28 [26] 452 ; *July* 6, 1080

Tithe Redemption at Rhyl, Q. Mr. S. Smith ; A. Mr. Gardner *May* 29 [24] 1525

Tithes in Essex, Q. Mr. A. C. Morton ; A. Mr. Gardner *May* 29 [24] 1524

Travelling Inspectors, Q. Sir R. Temple ; A. Mr. Gardner *Aug* 6 [28] 145

Tuberculosis Commission (see that title)

Veterinary Department, Copy pres. *Mar* 12 [22] 127

Vote for, Con. in Com. *Aug* 18 [28] 1545

Weather Forecasts, Q. Mr. Strachey ; A. Mr. Gardner *May* 24 [24] 1184 ; Q. Mr. H. Hoare ; A. Mr. Gardner *Aug* 13 [28] 774

AINSWORTH, Mr. D., *Cumberland, Egremont*

Irish National Foresters at Cleator Moor, and Mr. Kirkconnell [24] 760

Supply — Metalliferous Mines Inspector—Mr. Leck [28] 1441

AIRD, Mr. J., *Paddington, N.*

Royal Parks, Bands in [22] 1251

Aldershot—Water Supply, &c.
(See under *Army*)

ALEPPO

Barker Case, Q. Sir R. Temple ; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 21 [29] 162

[*cont.*

Aliens (see under *Emigration and Immigration*)

Aliens Bill
l. Pres., Marquess of Salisbury ; Read 1ª *July* 6 [26] 1047
Read 2ª *July* 17 [27] 117

Aliens Bill
Obs. Marquess of Londonderry, Marquess of Salisbury, Lord Herschell *Aug* 14 [28] 889

ALLAN, Mr. W., *Gateshead*
Navy Estimates—Men and Boys [22] 778
"Victoria" Disaster [22] 724, 726

ALLEN, Mr. C. F. Egerton, *Pembroke, &c.*
Army (Annual) Bill, Com. [23] 565
Established Church (Wales) Bill, Motion for Leave [23] 1738
Naval Dockyards—Labour and Wages, Res. [22] 638
Navy Estimates
  Dockyard Chaplains [23] 271
  Pembroke Dock [23] 296
  Shipbuilding, Repairs, &c. [23] 271
  Works, Buildings, and Repairs [23] 296
Supply—Post Office [29] 262

ALLEN, Mr. W., *Newcastle-under-Lyme*
Committees (Ascension Day), Res. [24] 141
Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, Com. [28] 856, 857
Naval Dockyards—Labour and Wages, Res. [22] 646, 647
Queen's Speech—House of Lords [22] 202
Turkey—Mossoul Consular Appointment [23] 615

Allotments
Duchy of Lancaster, Q. Mr. Cobb ; A. Mr. Bryce *May* 7 [24] 473
  Copy pres. *May* 8 [24] 692
Returns, Q. Mr. Bill ; A. Mr. H. Gardner *April* 12 [23] 207

ALLSOPP, Hon. G. H., *Worcester*
Artillery Bands [24] 229
Burial Acts [22] 1450

ALLSOPP, Mr. A. P., *Taunton*
Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 540

Amalgamation of the City and County of London Commission
Q. Mr. Cohen ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 10 [24] 765 ; Q. Sir A. Rollit ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 19 [27] 381 ; Q. Mr. Benn ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 16 [28] 1251

AMBROSE, Dr. D., *Louth, S.*
Finance Bill, Com. [25] 878
Ireland
  Franchise Assimilation [27] 801
  Police Assistance to a "Planter" [28] 757
  Veterinary Inspectors [22] 559

AMBROSE, Dr. R., *Mayo, W.*
Ireland
  Achill Islanders, Prosecution of [26] 130
  Achill Railway [23] 635 ; [26] 236
  Castlebar, Malicious Burning at [23] 16
  Clew Bay Disaster [27] 27
  Louisburgh Telegraph Office [23] 1227
  Resident Magistrates [24] 1160
London Postal Appointments [25] 908
Rating of Machinery Bill, 2R. [24] 745

AMBROSE, Mr. W., *Middlesex, Harrow*
Finance Bill, Com. [24] 1239, 1483, 1493 ; *cl.* 1 [25] 348 ; *cl.* 2, 607, 608, 625 ; *cl.* 3, 734, 735, 737 ; *cl.* 4, 746, 755, 865, 866 ; *cl.* 5, 941, 942, 1120 ; *cl.* 6, 1287, 1369, 1372, 1386 ; *cl.* 15 [26] 81 ; *cl.* 17, 190 ; *cl.* 18, 193
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 3R. [28] 319

Ambulance Instruction
Q. Sir J. Leng ; A. Mr. G. Russell *April* 19 [23] 824

AMERICA, BRITISH NORTH
Bank of, Copy pres. *April* 26 [23] 1552

AMERICA—SOUTH
Garrisoned with Marines, Q. Mr. Hanbury ; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 24 [24] 1162
Peru, Affairs of, Q. Colonel H. Vincent ; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 4 [25] 291 ; Q. Mr. W. Isaacson ; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 4, 304

AMERICA—UNITED STATES
Australian Mails and United States Riots, Qs. Mr. Hogan ; As. Mr. A. Morley *July* 13 [26] 1572 ; *July* 19 [27] 364
Behring Sea Sealers (see that title)
Cattle Ships and Essex Fisheries, Q. Major Rasch ; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 26 [26] 237
Derelicts (see that title)
Immigration Law, Q. Colonel H. Vincent ; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 23 [23] 1073
McKinley Tariff and St. Lucia, Q. Colonel H. Vincent ; A. Mr. Buxton *April* 26 [23] 1409
Madagascar—United States Consul, Q. Sir C. Dilke ; A. Sir E. Grey *Mar* 15 [22] 315
Mail Route
  Distances between Ports, Q. Sir J. Leng ; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 6 [22] 1505
  Queenstown and Moville, Qs. Sir J. Leng, Captain Donelan ; As. Mr. A. Morley *April* 6 [22] 1506
  Return ordered *April* 4 [22] 1380

[*cont.*

AMERICA—UNITED STATES—*cont.*

Nicaragua Canal, Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Sir E. Harland; As. Sir E. Grey *July* 16 [27] 15

Passengers from Steamers at Queenstown, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 17 [27] 165

Penny Postage, Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. A. Morley *June* 26 [26] 222

Prison-Made Goods, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 29 [26] 568

Wilson Tariff, Q. Major Jones; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 17 [28] 1384

Anarchists

Placards, Q. Mr. Darling; A. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 20 [27] 562

Treatment of, Qs. Mr. Talbot; As. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Asquith *Aug* 16 [28] 1245; References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 17 [28] 1458

Anglo-Belgian Agreement (see under AFRICA)

Animals, Cruelty to

Bullock—Cruelty to at Gloucester, Q. Sir W. Wedderburn; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 21 [25] 1634

Lions, Ill-treatment of—Decision of Her Majesty's Judges, Q. Sir D. Macfarlane; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 21 [24] 1277

Sentence on G. Ball, Q. Mr. Cobb; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 29 [24] 1539

Treatment of Wild Animals—Decision of Her Majesty's Judges, Q. Sir D. Marfarlane; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 25 [24] 1277

Unloading Cattle, Q. Mr. Everett; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 21 [21] 167

Van Horses in London, Qs. Captain Donelan, Mr. H. L. W. Lawson; As. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 3 [28] 15

Annuities and the Estate Duty

Q. Mr. Talbot; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 31 [25] 35

ANSTRUTHER, Mr. H. T., *St. Andrews, &c.*

Business of the House—Scottish Legislation [22] 327

Civil Service—Second Division Clerks [22] 684

Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Con. [28] 527, 528

Mussel Scalps (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [26] 875

Personal Explanation—Breaking a Pair [24] 1196

Sea Fisheries (Scotland) Bill, Intro. [24] 140; 2R., 1083; [25] 1316

Shops—Hours of Labour [22] 684

Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [23] 1017, 1596, 1613

Supply—Kitchen Committee [24] 1295

Anthrax (see under *Agriculture, Board of*)

Anti-Vaccinationists (see *Vaccination*)

ANTWERP

Burial of Seamen, Q. Mr. C. Williams; A. Sir E. Grey *July* 13 [26] 1557

Appropriations in Aid

Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir W. Harcourt *Mar* 13 [22] 152; Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Mar* 15 [22] 307

(References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Mar* 15 [22] 376)

Arbitration (Scotland) Bill

l. Pres., Lord Watson; Read 1ª *May* 31 [25] 4

Read 2ª *June* 5, 390

Com.; Reported; Re-com. to Standing Com. *June* 7, 546

Reported from Standing Com. *June* 12, 895

Amendts. reported *June* 14, 1058

Read 3ª, and passed *June* 15, 1205

c. Read 1° *June* 18, 1436

Read 2° *June* 21, 1726

Con. in Com.; Reported; Read 3°, and passed *June* 22 [26] 104

l. Returned from the Commons *June* 25, 114

Royal Assent *July* 3

[57° & 58° Vic. c. 13]

ARCH, Mr. J., *Norfolk, N.W.*

Canadian Cattle Importation [23] 1084

Charities, Diversion of [25] 27

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

Balfour, Jabez Spencer—Extradition, Q. Mr. Yerburgh; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 19 [23] 847; Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 17 [27] 179; Qs. Sir A. Rollit; As. Sir E. Grey *July* 20, 553; *Aug* 9 [28] 479; Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 14, 994; Q. Sir R. Temple; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 20 [29] 26; Q. Mr. Cobb; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 22, 282

(References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 20 [29] 78, &c.)

ARGYLL, Duke of

Finance Bill, 2R. [27] 978

Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Com. [28] 1172, 1181, 1188, 1190, 1197, 1198, 1199, 1206

London County Council—The Duchy of Lancaster and Betterment, Res. [26] 1554

Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [28] 678, 978

Valuation of Lands (Scotland) Acts Amendment Bill, Com. [27] 653, 654

ARMENIA

- *Prisoners,* Q. Mr. Schwann; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 19 [23] 854; Q. Mr. Channing; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 3 [24] 219; Q. Mr. F. S. Stevenson; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 12 [25] 921; Q. Mr. Schwann; A. Sir E. Grey *July* 31 [27] 1407
- *Troubles in,* Q. Mr. F. S. Stevenson; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 12 [23] 210

ARMY

Secretary of State—Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN

Under Secretary of State—Lord SANDHURST

Financial Secretary—Mr. WOODALL

- *Advertisements*—References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, July* 5 [26] 973, &c.
- *Afghan War Promotions,* Q. Sir S. King; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 25 [26] 118
- *Africa*
  - *Conflict between French and British Soldiers at Sierra Leone,* Qs. Captain Bagot, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; As. Sir E. Grey *Mar* 20 [22] 694; Q. Captain Bagot; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 7 [25] 566; Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Sir E. Grey *July* 13 [26] 1574; Qs. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, Mr. J. W. Lowther; As. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 14 [28] 994
  - *Defence of Sierra Leone,* Q. Sir C. Dilke; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 26 [27] 1002
- *Aldershot*
  - *Double Canteens,* Q. Colonel Murray; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 8 [24] 584
  - *Review—Soldiers not Available for Duty—Employment of the Reserve, &c.,* Qs. Major Rasch, Mr. Hanbury; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 28 [24] 1394; *May* 31 [25] 14
  - *Sewage Disposal,* Q. Mr. Pierpoint; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Aug* 3 [28] 21
  - *Water Supply,* Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Mr. Woodall *Aug* 14 [28] 991
- *Appropriations in Aid,* Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir W. Harcourt *Mar* 13 [22] 152; Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Mar* 15, 307
  - References to, in Debate on *Supply, Mar* 15 [22] 376
- *Bands*
  - *Artillery,* Q. Mr. G. Allsopp; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 3 [24] 229
  - *Irish Questions* (see under sub-heading *Ireland*)
  - *Political Meetings,* Q. Mr. D. Sullivan; A. Mr. Woodall *Aug* 21 [29] 158
- *Barracks*
  - *Bradford,* Q. Mr. Caine; A. Mr. Woodall *Mar* 19 [22] 564
  - *Brighton,* Qs. Mr. Loder; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 1 [24] 29; *July* 26 [27] 1007
  - *Construction of,* Q. Mr. Brookfield; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 28 [26] 448
  - *Drainage*—References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, July* 5 [26] 1037, &c.

[*cont.*

ARMY—cont.

- *Barracks*—cont.
  - *Expenditure on,* Q. Mr. Brodrick; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 26 [23] 1448
  - *Irish Questions* (see under sub-heading *Ireland*)
  - *Leeds,* Q. Mr. Jackson; A. Mr. Woodall *June* 21 [25] 1625
  - *Raglan—Sewage Outfall,* Q. Mr. Kearley; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 12 [23] 191
  - *Wellington*—References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, July* 6 [26] 1101, &c.
- *Bedding and other Barrack Accommodation for Soldiers,* Qs. Mr. Hanbury, Colonel Lockwood; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 4 [24] 365
- *Billetting*
  - *Pontefract,* Q. Mr. Nussey; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Mar* 15 [22] 304
  - *Wakefield,* Q. Mr. Nussey; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 2 [22] 1099
  - (References to, in Debate on the *Army (Annual) Bill, April* 16 [23] 567, &c.)
- *Black Watch, 1st Battalion,* Q. Mr. W. Kenny; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 28 [26] 448
- *Bootmakers, Civilian,* Q. Mr. Dodd; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 29 [24] 1543
- *Brennan Torpedo,* Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 3 [24] 232; Q. Colonel Nolan; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 3 [26] 792
- *Candidates, Medical Examinations of,* Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Mr. Woodall *Aug* 14 [28] 987
- *Canteens*
  - *Double Canteens,* Q. Colonel Murray; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 8 [24] 584
  - *Sergeants' Pay,* Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 4 [24] 364
  - *Supplies,* Q. Mr. W. Redmond; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 24 [24] 1153
  - *Temperance Canteens,* Q. Mr. A. Grove; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 9 [22] 1591
- *Cavalry Horses,* Qs. Mr. Brookfield, Sir C. Dilke; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 3 [26] 787; Q. Mr. Brookfield; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 5, 950
  - References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, July* 4 [26] 911, &c.
- *Cavalry Regiments, Strength of,* Q. Mr. Brookfield; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 22 [26] 20
- *Ceylon*
  - *Defences of Colombo,* Q. Mr. Schwann; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 15 [22] 1443
  - *Rifle Range,* Q. Mr. Schwann; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 5 [22] 1444
  - *Rifles—Royal Warwickshire Regiment,* Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Woodall *April* 9 [22] 1579
- *Chelsea and Kilmainham Hospitals,* Q. Mr. Kearley; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 12 [25] 918
  - References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, July* 18 [27] 316, &c.

[*cont.*

ARMY—cont.
Chelsea Hospital Funds, Q. Sir J. Leng ; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 23 [27] 670 ; Q. Captain Naylor-Leyland ; A. Mr. Woodall *Aug* 16 [28] 1254
Chemists (see under sub-heading *Waltham Abbey Factory Explosion*)
Clerical Department, Q. Mr. Macdonald ; A. Mr. Woodall *May* 10 [24] 790 ; Q. Mr. J. Burns ; A. Mr. Woodall *July* 3 [26] 790
  References to, in Debate on the *Estimates*, *July* 18 [27] 289, &c.
Clothing Establishments, &c., Vote for, Con. in Com. *July* 5 [26] 962, &c.
Colonial Officers and Military Appointments, Q. Mr. Hogan ; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 24 [24] 1164
Commander-in-Chief—Duke of Cambridge —References to, in Debate on the *Estimates*, *July* 18 [27] 303, &c.
Commissions, Q. Mr. Macdona ; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 16 [27] 30
Compassionate Allowances—Cases of Persons Killed or Injured, Qs. Mr. Hanbury, Colonel Lockwood ; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 21 [25] 1636
Contagious Diseases among the Troops, Q. Mr. Jeffreys ; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 20 [23] 983
  References to, in Debate on the *Estimates*, *June* 13 [25] 1019, &c.
  See also under sub-heading *India*
Contracts
  Armour-Piercing Projectiles, Q. Mr. Hanbury ; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *April* 6 [22] 1510 ; Q. Mr. Hanbury ; A. Mr. Woodall *April* 9, 1577
  Boots, Qs. Captain Norton ; As. Mr. Woodall *June* 29 [26] 576 ; *July* 6, 1064 ; *July* 12, 1466
  Clothing and Sweating—References to, in Debate on the *Estimates*, *July* 5 [26] 971, &c.
  Cutlery, Q. Colonel H. Vincent ; A. Mr. Woodall *April* 12 [23] 188
  London Small Arms Company, Bow, Q. Mr. Macdonald ; A. Mr. Woodall *July* 3 [26] 792
  Messrs. Ross and Company—References to, in Debate on the *Estimates*, *July* 5 [26] 1000, &c.
  Trade Unions—Messrs. Berry and Sons, Qs. Mr. Fenwick ; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 10 [23] 9
Cordite
  Dispute—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Mar* 15 [22] 366
  Lee-Metford Rifle, Q. Mr. Weir ; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 29 [24] 1529
  Manufacturing, Q. Mr. Hanbury ; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 22 [24] 1007 ; Qs. Mr. Lough, Mr. Weir ; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 24, 1171 ; Qs. Sir C. Dilke, Mr. Hanbury ; As. Mr. Woodall *Aug* 6 [28] 124
  Maxim Gun, Q. Mr. Weir ; A. Mr. Woodall *May* 10 [24] 806 ; Q. Mr. Weir ; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 25, 1266

[*cont.*

ARMY—cont.
Cordite—cont.
  Musketry Practice, Q. Mr. Hanbury ; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Aug* 10 [28] 559
  Waltham Abbey Explosion (see that sub-heading)
Courts Martial—References to, in Debate on the *Army (Annual) Bill*, *April* 16 [23] 573
Crimean Veterans (see under sub-heading *Pensions*)
Danish Smokeless Powder, Q. Mr. Weir ; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 24 [24] 1175

Defences
  Imperial Defence and the Colonies, Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. Goschen ; As. Mr. Buxton *June* 28 [26] 244 ; Q. Colonel H. Vincent ; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 29, 566 ; Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. Arnold-Forster ; As. Mr. Buxton *July* 12, 1465
  Imperial Defence Loan—References to, in Debate on the *Estimates*, *July* 6 [26] 1143
  Mobilisation (see that sub-heading)
  Res. (Sir C. Dilke) *Mar* 16 [22] 462

Discharged and Reserve Soldiers (see sub-heading *Reserve*)
Education Establishment, Vote for, Con. in Com. *July* 6 [26] 1115
Embarkation of Troops, Q. Colonel Palmer ; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 11 [25] 797
Employment for Soldiers' Wives—Shirt-Making, Q. Mr. Kearley ; A. Mr. Woodall *May* 10 [24] 754
Enfield Lock Building Works, Q. Captain Bowles ; A. Mr. Woodall *May* 10 [24] 775
Enlistment, Fraudulent, Q. Mr. Hanbury ; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 7 [24] 474
Essex Regiment, Q. Major Rasch ; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 15 [25] 1208

Examinations, Q. Mr. Sexton ; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 30 [23] 1686 ; Q. Mr. Seton-Karr ; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 25 [24] 1281 ; Q. and Obs. Earl of Strafford, Lord Sandhurst *July* 12 [26] 1439
  Copy pres. May 8 [24] 692
  Lieutenant-Colonels' Promotion, Q. Mr. Brookfield ; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 31 [25] 40
  Non-Commissioned Officers, Q. Colonel Lockwood ; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 18 [25] 1348
  Preliminary, Q. Mr. Rentoul ; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 21 [25] 1643

Expenditure, 1892-3, Com. *Aug* 17 [28] 1488 ; Con. in Com. *Aug* 18, 1598
  Report *Aug* 20 [29] 148

[*cont.*

ARMY—cont.

- *Factories*
  - *Copy pres. Mar* 12 [22] 126
  - *Eight Hours Day*, Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Mar* 13 [22] 151; References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, July* 5 [26] 1014, &c.
  - *Enfield*, Q. Captain Bowles; A. Mr. Woodall *April* 16 [23] 457; Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 26, 1444; Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Mr. Woodall *May* 3 [24] 235; Qs. Mr. K. Hardie, Mr. Weir; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 12 [25] 912; References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, July* 5 [26] 996
  - *Enfield and Sparkbrook*, Qs. Mr. A. C. Morton, Mr. Benn; As. Mr. Woodall *April* 5 [22] 1437; Qs. Mr. Weir, Mr. Barran, Mr. J. Collings; As. Mr. Woodall *April* 9, 1579; Qs. Mr. Weir, Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Mr. Woodall *April* 12 [23] 209; Qs. Captain Bowles, Mr. J. Howard; As. Mr. Woodall *April* 24, 1218
  - *Engine Drivers at Woolwich Arsenal*, Q. Mr. Macdonald; A. Mr. Woodall *July* 6 [26] 1068
  - *Police*, Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 31 [25] 31
  - *Superannuation Act—James Marsh*, Copy pres. *April* 19 [23] 956
  - *Waltham Abbey Explosion* (see that sub-heading)
  - *Woolwich*, Qs. Mr. Lough, Mr. Tomlinson, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Forwood; As. Mr. Woodall *May* 3 [24] 224; Q. Mr. Macdonald; A. Mr. Woodall *May* 4, 364; Qs. Mr. Pierpoint, Baron H. de Worms; As. Mr. Woodall *May* 10, 763; Q. Mr. D. Thomas; A. Mr. Woodall *May* 10, 792; Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Mr. Woodall *July* 19 [27] 375; Q. Mr. Lough; A. Mr. Woodall *Aug* 21 [29] 176
  - *Machinery Blocked by Whitebait*, Q. Mr. Benn; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 26 [23] 1409
  - *Woolwich Arsenal Injury Pay*, Return pres. *Mar* 12 [22] 128
- *Forage*
  - *Billetting* (see that sub-heading)
  - *Compressed Fodder Contracts*, Q. Colonel Lockwood; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 4 [24] 376
  - *Forage and Supplies, Vote for*, Con. in Com. *June* 13 [25] 993
  - *Volunteer Allowances*, Q. Colonel Bridgeman; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 22 [26] 19
  - References to, in Debate on *Supply, Mar* 15 [22] 430
- *Foreign Service*, Q. Mr. W. Whitelaw; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 24 [27] 803
- *Frog's Marching*, Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Mr. Woodall *May* 10 [24] 804
- *General Annual Return*, Copy pres. *Aug* 10 [28] 651
- *Gibraltar—Frozen Meat Supplies*, Q. Mr. Colston; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 12 [26] 1469

[*cont.*

ARMY—cont.

- *Guards' Hospital at Westminster*, Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 3 [24] 228
- *Guns (Rifle, Iron, and Steel)*, Address for Return *Aug* 16 [28] 1356
- *Gymnastic Training*, Q. Mr. Pierpoint; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 23 [27] 666
  - References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, June* 13 [25] 994
- *Hong Kong Plague*, Q. Major Rasch; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 3 [26] 796; Q. Mr. Webster; A. Mr. Woodall *Aug* 16 [28] 1224
- *Hospital Meat Supplies*, Qs. Mr. Hanbury, Mr. Jeffreys; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 4 [24] 365
- *Imperial Defence* (see sub-heading *Defences*)
- *India*
  - *Catholic Ceremonies, Soldiers at*, Q. Mr. W. Johnston; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 28 [26] 438
  - *Contagious Diseases*, Q. Mr. Jeffreys; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 20 [23] 983; Q. Sir R. Temple; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 23, 1082
  - *Contagious Diseases Acts*, Q. Mr. W. M'Laren; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 28 [26] 439
  - *Dum-Dum Murder—Private O'Hara*, Q. Mr. Caine; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 5 [22] 1438
  - *Expenditure*, Qs. Sir D. Macfarlane; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 19 [23] 860; *July* 26 [27] 1020; *Aug* 7 [28] 266
    - Return pres. *June* 11 [25] 892
  - *Field Hospital Training*, Q. Mr. Byles; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 10 [24] 785
  - *Firearms Fatalities*, Q. Mr. Caine; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 5 [25] 400
  - *Home Pensions—Increase*, Q. Sir D. Macfarlane; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *July* 20 [27] 546
  - *Imprisonment of Soldiers*—References to, in Debate on the *Army (Annual) Bill, April* 16 [23] 562, &c.
  - *Lance-Corporals*, Q. Colonel Waring; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 5 [25] 399; Q. Colonel Waring; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 7, 583
  - *Madras and Bombay Commands*, Q. Sir C. Dilke; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Mar* 13 [22] 140
  - *Medical Staff Corps*, Q. Dr. Farquharson; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 3 [24] 230
  - *Military and Orphan Funds*, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *July* 31 [27] 1399
  - *Mutinous Conduct of Native Troops*, Q. Mr. Brodrick; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 10 [24] 811; Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 24, 1162
  - *Nursing Fever Patients*, Q. Viscount Folkestone; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *July* 13 [26] 1557
  - *Officers' Debts*, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Aug* 7 [28] 266
  - *Officers' Pay*, Q. Mr. Naoroji; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 20 [23] 970

[*cont.*

ARMY—cont.

India—cont.

Reliefs, Qs. Mr. Tomlinson; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 31, 8; *June* 5 [25] 403

Staff College, Q. Mr. Rentoul; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *July* 10 [26] 1308

Staff Corps, Q. Mr. Talbot; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 2 [22] 1099; Qs. Sir S. King, Mr. Arnold-Forster; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 31 [25] 6; Q. Sir S. King; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *July* 19 [27] 357

Station Hospitals Savings, Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Aug* 2 [27] 1569

Troopships, Q. Mr. Forwood; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 19 [22] 574; Q. Mr. Baker; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *April* 6, 1507; Q. Mr. Webster; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 25 [24] 1263; Qs. Sir W. Wedderburn, Sir J. Fergusson; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Aug* 2 [27] 1572

Waziri Expedition Medal, Q. Sir A. Acland-Hood; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *July* 23 [27] 671

Invasion, Preparations against (see sub-heading *Mobilisation*)

Ireland

Antrim Castle Deer Park—Camping Exercise, Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 19 [23] 846

Bands at Political Gatherings, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Aug* 10 [28] 553; Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Flynn; As. Mr. Woodall *Aug* 16, 1243

Bantry Bay Military Works, Q. Mr. Gilhooly; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Mar* 20 [22] 685

Belfast Disturbances—2nd Battalion Dorset Regiment, Qs. Mr. Wolff, Mr. M'Cartan; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 12 [23] 215; Q. Mr. Wingfield-Digby; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 27, 1587

Birr Barrack Scandal, Q. Mr. Molloy; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 19 [27] 379; Q. Mr. Brookfield; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 24, 801; Q. Mr. Molloy; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 26, 1026; Qs. Mr. Webb, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Dodd; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 6 [28] 127; Q. Mr. Webb; A. Mr. Woodall *Aug* 21 [29] 164

Canteen Supplies, Q. Mr. W. Redmond; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 24 [24] 1153

Carnacassa, Monaghan Militia Camp at, Q. Mr. O'Driscoll; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 26 [23] 1410

Catholic Holidays, Q. Mr. Kennedy; A. Mr. Woodall *Aug* 23 [29] 359

Corcoran, Peter, Case of, Q. Mr. Bodkin; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 12 [23] 214

Curragh Buildings—Killaloe Slates, &c., Q. Captain Donelan; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 2 [22] 1108; Q. Mr. P. J. O'Brien; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 26 [23] 1436; Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 25 [24] 1269; Q. Mr. MacNeill; A. Mr. Woodall *July* 28 [26] 440

[*cont.*

ARMY—cont.

Ireland—cont.

Donegal Artillery, Q. Mr. Rentoul; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 22 [26] 21

Dublin Main Drainage Scheme—Richmond Prison—Pigeon House Fort, &c., Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 24 [27] 810; Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy, Dr. Kenny; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 26, 1008; Q. Mr. Ross; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Aug* 9 [28] 448; Qs. Mr. Ross; As. Mr. Woodall *Aug* 13, 761; *Aug* 16, 1241

Dublin Soldiers' Institute, Q. Mr. A. O'Connor; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 2 [22] 1113

Examinations, Q. Mr. Sexton; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 30 [23] 1686

Glenbeigh Shell Fatality, Q. Sir T. Esmonde; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 11 [25] 790

Inniskilling Fusiliers—Quartermaster, Q. Mr. Dane; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 26 [23] 1420

Kilbride Rifle Range, Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Clancy; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Aug* 9 [28] 445

Licensed Houses in Buttevant, Qs. Mr. Flynn, Mr. Webster; As. Mr. Woodall *April* 13 [23] 341

Londonderry Barracks, Q. Mr. Ross; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 12 [23] 184; Qs. Mr. Ross, Mr. W. Johnston; As. Mr. Woodall *Aug* 2 [27] 1561

Mail Boats, Soldiers on, Qs. Major Rasch, Mr. W. Johnston; As. Mr. Mundella *May* 3 [24] 236

Militia Sergeants' Pay, Q. Mr. Tully; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 8 [24] 594

Officers at Race Meetings, Q. Mr. P. Smith; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 20 [23] 978

Soldiers on Irish Mail Boats, Q. Major Rasch; A. Mr. Burt *April* 26 [23] 1436

Spike Island—Soldiers Unloading Coal, Q. Captain Donelan; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 5 [22] 1450

Stewart, Colonel, Q. Mr. Rentoul; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 12 [25] 901
References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, July* 3 [26] 836, &c.

Taffe, Edward, Case of, Q. Mr. Bodkin; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 9 [22] 1572

Judge-Advocate-General—References to, in Debate on the *Army (Annual) Bill*, *April* 16 [23] 554, &c.

Lee-Metford Rifle Range (see sub-heading *Rifle Ranges*)

Malta—Fever and Unsanitary Condition of Harbour, Q. and Obs. Viscount Sidmouth, Marquess of Ripon, Earl Spencer *July* 9 [26] 1175; Q. Sir S. King; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 10, 1306; Q. Captain Grice-Hutchinson; A. Mr. Buxton *July* 17 [27] 168

Manufacture of Warlike Stores—Private Firms and Royal Arsenals, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Woodall *July* 6 [26] 1069

[*cont.*

ARMY—cont.

- *Maplin Sands, Gun Practice Over,* Q. Major Rasch; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 19 [23] 836
- *Maxim Guns, Manufacture of,* Qs. Captain Bowles, Sir G. Baden-Powell; As. Mr. Woodall *May* 10 [24] 806
- *Medical Department*
  - *Brigg, Dr.*—Reference to, in Debate on the *Estimates, July* 3 [26] 810, &c.
  - *Examinations*—References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, July* 3 [26] 800, &c.
  - *Hospital Corps,* Q. Mr. Arnold-Forster; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Mar* 15 [22] 325
  - *Indian Questions* (see under sub-heading *India*)
  - *Officers in the Home District,* Q. Captain Norton; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 7 [25] 556
  - "*Professional Assistant*" *to the Director General,* Q. Captain Norton; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 2 [22] 1111
  - *Report,* Q. Mr. A. C. Morton; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 28 [24] 1419
  - *Staff,* Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 31 [27] 1408
  - *Surgeon-Major Hamilton G. Gardner,* Q. Mr. Webster; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 6 [22] 1514
- *Military Prisons,* Copy pres. of New Rule *May* 28 [24] 1504
- *Militia*
  - *Copy pres. April* 16 [23] 592
  - *Magazine Rifle,* Q. Mr. Brodrick; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 14 [25] 1081; References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, June* 13 [25] 1034
  - *Perry, Colonel, and Colonel Stewart*—References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, July* 3 [26] 836, &c.
  - *Railway Passes,* Q. Mr. Dixon; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 12 [26] 1466
  - *Sergeants' Pay,* Q. Mr. Tully; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 8 [24] 594
  - *Vote for,* Con. in Com. *July* 3 [26] 833
- *Mineral Oil,* Q. Mr. Paul; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 14 [25] 1084
- *Mitchell, Colonel,* Q. Mr. Rentoul; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 10 [26] 1308; Q. Mr. Naoroji; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 17 [27] 158; Q. Mr. Naoroji; A. Sir J. Rigby *July* 20, 553
- *Mobilisation,* Obs. Colonel Lockwood *Mar* 16 [22] 519; Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. Arnold-Forster; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 16 [23] 463; Q. Mr. Arnold-Forster; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 23, 1083
- *Moss Litter for Horses,* Q. Mr. Wingfield-Digby; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 31 [25] 24
- *Mount Wise Bathing Place, Devonport,* Q. Mr. Kearley; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 25 [24] 1271
- *Musketry—Examination Papers,* Q. Mr. Lloyd-Morgan; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Mar* 16 [22] 445

[*cont.*

ARMY—cont.

- *Netley College—Case of Dr. Corbett*—References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, July* 6 [26] 1122, &c.
- *Officers*
  - *Artillery Majors,* Q. Colonel Nolan; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Mar* 15 [22] 333; References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, June* 13 [25] 1001, &c.; 1033, &c.
  - *Lieutenant Colonels' Promotion,* Q. Mr. Brookfield; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 31 [25] 40
  - *Reserve Pay,* Q. Major Rasch; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 15 [25] 1209
  - *Staff Officers' Pay at the Manœuvres,* Q. Colonel Lockwood; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Mar* 19 [22] 580
  - *Warrant Officers—Good Conduct Medals,* Q. Viscount Wolmer; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 19 [25] 1456
- *Ordnance Store Department, Woolwich—Wages, &c.,* Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Mr. Woodall *Aug* 17 [28] 1383
- *Patriotic Fund Commissioners—Balaclava Fund,* Q. Captain Naylor-Leyland; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Mar* 19 [22] 569
- *Pensions*
  - *Compassionate Campaign Pensions,* Q. Captain Bagot; A. Mr. Woodall *May* 1, [24] 26
  - *Crimean and Indian Mutiny Pensioners,* Q. Sir J. Leng; A. Mr. Woodall *Mar* 16 [22] 435; Qs. Mr. Bodkin; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 12 [23] 214; Q. Mr. Schwann; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 14 [25] 1093; Qs. Mr. T. Chamberlayne, Mr. Kearley, Mr. W. Johnston, Sir D. Macfarlane, Mr. Bartley, Major Rasch, Mr. MacNeill; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 26 [26] 218; Qs. Mr. Bartley, Sir D. Macfarlane, Mr. Hanbury; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 5, 944; References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, July* 18 [27] 317, &c.
  - *Copy pres. Mar* 29 [22] 999
  - *Discharged Soldiers, Grievances of,* Q. Colonel Lockwood; A. Mr. Woodall *April* 13 [23] 335
  - *Lieutenant-Colonels',* Q. Mr. Brookfield; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 31 [25] 40
  - *Non-Commissioned Officers,* Q. Colonel Lockwood; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 24 [24] 1158
  - *Public Houses and Pensioners,* Qs. Mr. J. Burns, Mr. Jeffreys, Mr. Bartley; As. Mr. Asquith, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 5 [22] 1452; Qs. Mr. Bartley, Mr. J. Burns; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 10 [23] 12
  - *Rich, Colonel,* Qs. Sir G. Chesney; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Mar* 20 [22] 685; *June* 14 [25] 1088
  - *Schoolmasters,* Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 28 [24] 1388
  - *Sergeant-Major Lowe's Widow,* Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 29 [24] 1528

[*cont.*

ARMY—cont.

Pensions—cont.

Waltham Abbey Powder Factory, Q. Colonel Lockwood; A. Mr. Woodall *May* 10 [24] 809

Pontefract, Billetting at (see sub-heading *Billetting*)

Pontefract—Garrison Military Regulations, Q. Mr. Nussey; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Mar* 15 [22] 302

Presents of Specimens of Lee-Metford Rifles and Cordite Ammunition, Q. Mr. Tomlinson; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 26 [23] 1413

Promotions, Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Aug* 10 [28] 558

References to, in Debate on the *Estimates*, *June* 13 [25] 1007, 1008

Quartermasters' Appointments, Q. Captain Bowles; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 4 [25] 287

Queen's Birthday Celebrations, Q. Mr. Tomlinson; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 5 [25] 404

Queen's Birthday Honours—Order of the Bath, &c., Q. Admiral Field; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 4 [25] 313; Qs. Admiral Field, Mr. Labouchere; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth, Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 7, 574; Q. Admiral Field; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 14, 1083

Rations

Flour — Home Produce, Qs. Mr. Field; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 12 [23] 211

Foreign Meat—References to, in Debate on the *Estimates*, *June* 13 [25] 1038, &c.

Reserve

Aldershot Review, Qs. Major Rasch; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 28 [24] 1394; *May* 31 [25] 14

Copy pres. April 16 [23] 592

Employment for Reserve and Discharged Soldiers, Q. Sir J. Whitehead; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 17 [23] 636; Qs. Mr. Hanbury, Major Rasch; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 23, 1098; Q. Major Rasch; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 1 [24] 21; Qs. Major Rasch; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 16 [27] 29; *Aug* 3 [28] 17; Motion for Return (Lord Wantage) *May* 7 [24] 446; *May* 31 [25] 3; References to, in Debate on the *Estimates*, *June* 13 [25] 1012, &c.; Res. (Major Rasch) *Mar* 16 [22] 507

Telegraphists' Pay, Q. Major Rasch; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 21 [25] 1625

Transport, Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Aug* 3 [28] 30; Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 26 [26] 224

Retired Soldiers' and Sailors' Employment, Select Committee

Com. ordered (Sir G. Chesney) *June* 13 [25] 1052

Com. nominated *June* 28 [26] 515; Additions to Com. *June* 29, 656; Report *Aug* 3 [28] 116

[*cont.*

ARMY—cont.

Rifle Ranges

Lee-Metford Rifle Range, Q. Mr. Fletcher; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 2 [22] 1098; References to, in Debate on the *Estimates*, *June* 13 [25] 998, &c.

Metropolitan Volunteers, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Aug* 9 [28] 438

Scotch and Irish Questions (see sub-headings *Scotland* and *Ireland*)

Staines, Qs. Mr. Webster, Colonel H. Vincent; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 31 [27] 1394

Tipton Fatality, Qs. Mr. Macdona; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 12 [25] 922; *June* 18, 1343; Qs. Mr. Wilson Lloyd; As. Mr. Woodall *Aug* 16 [28] 1226; *Aug* 22 [29] 280

Wimbledon, Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 25 [24] 1278; Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 28, 1413; Qs. Mr. Macdona; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 18 [25] 1343; *June* 19, 1469; *June* 29 [26] 574; Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 6, 1076; Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Aug* 2 [27] 1564

(References to, in Debate on the *Estimates*, *June* 13 [25] 991, &c.; *July* 5 [26] 1011, &c.; *July* 16, 1089, &c.)

Rifles

Magazine — References to, in Debate on the *Consolidated Fund Bill*, *Mar* 24 [22] 896

Martini, Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Mr. Woodall *April* 12 [23] 208

Militia—References to, in Debate on the *Estimates*, *July* 3 [26] 854, &c.

Royal Artillery at Tenterden—Damage Committed by Soldiers, Q. Mr. L. Hardy; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 24 [24] 1161

Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, Copy pres. *Aug* 10 [28] 651

Royal Military College, Sandhurst, Copy pres. *Aug* 10 [28] 651

Rules of Procedure, Copy pres. *July* 10 [26] 1392

Savings Banks, Account pres. *June* 12 [25] 992

Scotland

Artillery Practice on the Firth of Clyde, Q. Sir C. Cameron; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 12 [26] 1468

Barry Links, Q. Captain Hope; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Aug* 9 [28] 463

Dalmore Shooting Range, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Aug* 10 [28] 564

Hamilton Brigade Depôt, Q. Mr. Hozier; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Mar* 13 [22] 142

Highland Light Infantry Militia, Q. Mr. H. Smith; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Aug* 3 [28] 30

Short Service System—Soldiers' Grievances, Qs. Mr. Hanbury; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 28 [24] 1394; *May* 31 [25] 15

[*cont.*

ARMY—cont.

- *Stores, Reserve,* Q. Sir S. Northcote; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Mar* 19 [22] 585
- *Straits Settlements—Military Contribution,* Q. Sir J. Gorst; A. Mr. Buxton *Mar* 19 [22] 573; Q. Sir T. Sutherland; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 28 [26] 435; Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 26 [27] 1015; Qs. Mr. W. Johnston, Mr. H. Heaton; As. Mr. Buxton *July* 27, 1117; *Aug* 3 [28] 6; *Aug* 10, 556; Qs. Mr. H. Heaton; As. Mr. Buxton *Aug* 13, 765; *Aug* 17, 1388; Qs. Mr. H. Heaton; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert, Mr. Woodall *Aug* 21 [29] 171
- *Troopships,* Q. Mr. Forwood; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 19 [22] 574; Q. Mr. Baker; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *April* 6, 1507; Q. Mr. Webster; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May.* 25 [24] 1263; References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, July* 4 [26] 913, &c.
- *Volunteer Acts,* Select Com. ordered *April* 23 [23] 1203; Com. appointed; Papers, &c., ordered *May* 7 [24] 575; Report *July* 17 [27] 275
- *Volunteers*
  - *Camps,* Q. Mr. Tomlinson; A. Mr. Woodall *May* 10 [24] 805
  - *Capitation Grant,* Q. Mr. Colston; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 12 [26] 1476; Q. Sir H. Fletcher; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Aug* 9 [28] 440
  - *Civil Servants,* Q. Viscount Bury; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 31 [25] 33
  - *Decorations—Long-Service Medal, &c.,* Q. Mr. H. S. Wright; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Mar* 15 [22] 315; Q. Viscount Wolmer; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 5, 1448; Q. Mr. Webster; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 6, 1515; Q. Mr. Birkmyre; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 10 [23] 10; Q. Viscount Wolmer; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 12, 183; Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 12, 216; Q. Mr. Paul; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 30, 1672; Q. Captain Norton; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 7 [25] 556; Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 7, 581; Qs. Mr. Darling, Mr. Schwann; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 14, 1085; Qs. Sir C. Cameron, Mr. Tomlinson; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 21, 1628; Q. Sir C. Dalrymple; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 25 [26] 135; Q. Sir A. Hickman; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 26, 232; Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Sir F. Dixon-Hartland; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 12, 1464
  - *Forage Allowances,* Q. Colonel Bridgeman; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 22 [26] 19
  - *Gun Licences,* Q. Mr. Wingfield-Digby; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 27 [23] 1587
  - *Mounted Volunteers,* Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 4 [25] 299
  - *Officers—Military Instruction,* Q. Mr. Griffith-Boscawen; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Mar* 29 [22] 904

ARMY—cont.

- *Volunteers*—cont.
  - *Rifle Ranges* (see that sub-heading)
  - *Sergeant Instructors and Railway Fares,* Q. Sir A. Acland-Hood; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Mar* 19 [22] 566
  - *Vote for,* Con. in Com. *July* 4 [26] 884
- *Waltham Abbey Powder Factory*
  - *Chemists,* Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Mr. Woodall *May* 10 [24] 788; Q. Colonel Lockwood; A. Mr. Woodall *May* 10, 789
  - *Colonel M'Clintock,* Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 22 [26] 20; References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, July* 5 [26] 1022, &c.; *July* 18 [27] 308, &c.
  - *Cordite Manufacture,* Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 22 [24] 1007; Q. Mr. Lough; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 24, 1171
  - *Inquiry,* Qs. Mr. Hanbury, Mr. A. J. Balfour; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Mar* 13 [22] 154
  - *Pensions,* Q. Colonel Lockwood; A. Mr. Woodall *May* 10 [24] 809
  - *Workmen's Wages,* Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Woodall *June* 15 [25] 1219
- *Waltham Abbey Powder Factory Explosions*
  - Qs. Mr. Hanbury, Colonel Lockwood; As. Mr. Woodall *April* 13 [23] 338; Qs. Colonel Lockwood, Mr. Stuart-Wortley; As. Mr. Woodall, Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 7 [24] 575; Qs. Mr. J. Rowlands, Mr. Hanbury, Mr. G. Bowles, Sir H. Roscoe; As. Mr. Woodall *May* 8, 605; Qs. Colonel Lockwood, Mr. Hanbury; As. Mr. Woodall *May* 10, 789; Q. Colonel Lockwood; A. Mr. Woodall *May* 31 [25] 32
  - *Compensation Awards,* Qs. Captain Bowles, Mr. Hanbury; As. Mr. Woodall *May* 10 [24] 805; Q. Colonel Lockwood; A. Mr. Woodall *May* 10, 809; Qs. Colonel Lockwood, Mr. Hanbury; As. Mr. Woodall, Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 18 [25] 1348; Qs. Colonel Lockwood, Mr. Hanbury; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 21, 1636; References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, July* 18, [27] 325, &c.
  - *Injuries to Property—Compensation,* Qs. Colonel Lockwood, Mr. Hanbury; As. Mr. Woodall *May* 10 [24] 789
  - *Motion for Adjournment of the House* (Colonel Lockwood) *May* 28 [24] 1426
  - *Report,* Qs. Mr. Hanbury; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 28 [26] 454; *Aug* 2, [27] 1568
  - *Report,* Copy pres. *Aug* 10 [28] 651
  - (References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, July* 5 [26] 1022, &c.)
- *Windsor Park—Polo and the Horse Guards' Officers,* Qs. Mr. Labouchere; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 25 [24] 1276
- *Woolwich Arsenal* (see sub-heading *Factories*)
- *Workshops, Soldiers',* Q. Colonel Murray; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 31 [27] 1393
- *Yeomanry, Vote for,* Con. in Com. *July* 3 [26] 867; *July* 4, 877

Army and Navy Expenditure, 1892-3
Com. *Aug* 17 [28] 1488 ; *Aug* 18, 1598
Report *Aug* 20 [29] 148

Army (Annual) Bill
c. Ordered ; Read 1° *Mar* 21 [22] 851
Read 2° *Mar* 22, 894
Com. ; Read 3°, and passed *April* 16 [23] 554
l. Read 1ª *April* 17, 593
Read 2ª and 3ª, and passed *April* 19, 816
Royal Assent *April* 23, 1069
[57° Vic. c. 3]

Army (Annual) Bill
Obs. Mr. G. Bowles, Mr. A. C. Morton, Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, Sir W. Harcourt, Sir A. Rollit, Sir R. Temple *Mar* 21 [22] 854 ; Q. Mr. G. Bowles ; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Mar* 22, 869 ; Qs. Mr. Brodrick, Mr. Hanbury ; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Mar* 29 [22] 906 ; Q. Mr. Hanbury ; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 2, 1114

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1894-5
Copy pres. *Mar* 12 [22] 126
Memorandum of Estimates, Copy pres. *Mar* 12 [22] 126 (See Appendix)
Ordnance Factories (*Supplementary Estimates, 1893-4*), Copy pres. *Mar* 12 [22] 126
Supplementary Estimate, 1893-4, Copy pres. *Mar* 12 [22] 126
£195,000—Supplementary, Additional Expenditure on Army Service, Com., *Mar* 15 [22] 429 ; Report *Mar* 16, 555
£100—Ordnance Factories (Supplementary), Com., *Mar* 15 [22] 431 ; Report *Mar* 16, 555
Land Forces (155,347) of all Ranks, Com., *Mar* 16 [22] 521 ; Report *Mar* 19, 675
£5,981,000—Pay, &c., of the Army (General Staff, Regiments, Reserve, and Departments), Com., *Mar* 16 [22] 549 ; Report *Mar* 19, 675
£100—Ordnance Factories, Com., *Mar* 16 [22] 550 ; Report *Mar* 19, 675
£100—Ordnance Factories—Excess, 1892-3, Com., *Mar* 20 [22] 784 ; Report *Mar* 21, 851
£2,732,200—Provisions, Forage, &c., Com., *June* 13 [25] 993 ; Report *June* 14, 1164
£290,000—Medical Establishment, Pay, &c., Com., *July* 3 [26] 800 ; Report *July* 4, 919
£600,000—Militia, Pay and Allowances, Com., *July* 3 [26] 833 ; *Amendt.* (Mr. Hanbury), 863 ; *Division*, 867 ; Original Question agreed to ; Report *July* 4, 919
£74,400—Yeomanry Cavalry, Pay and Miscellaneous Charges, Com., *July* 3 [26] 867 ; R.P. ; Debate resumed *July* 4 [26] 877 ; *Amendt.* (Mr. A. C. Morton), 878 ; *Division*, 883 ; Original Question agreed to ; Report *July* 5, 1044

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1894-5—cont.
£804,000—Volunteer Corps, Pay and Allowances, Com., *July* 4 [26] 884 ; Report *July* 5, 1044
£631,600—Transport and Remounts, Com., *July* 4 [26] 911 ; *Amendt.* (Mr. Hanbury), 917 ; Withdrawn ; Original Question agreed to ; Report *July* 5, 1044
£789,600—Clothing Establishments and Services, Com., *July* 5 [26] 962 ; Report *July* 6, 1168
£1,807,000—Warlike and other Stores ; Supply and Repairs, Com., *July* 5 [26] 996 ; Report *July* 6, 1168
£832,600—Works, Buildings, and Repairs ; Costs, including Superintending Staff, Com., *June* 13 [25] 1051 ; *July* 5 [26] 1035 ; *Amendt.* (Sir A. Acland-Hood), 1039 ; R.P. ; Debate resumed *July* 6, 1082 ; Report *July* 9, 1279
£114,500—Establishments for Military Education, Com., *July* 6 [26] 1115 ; Report *July* 9, 1279
£130,600—Sundry Miscellaneous Effective Services, Com., *July* 6 [26] 1130 ; *Amendt.* (Sir R. Temple), 1146 ; *Division*, 1148 ; agreed to ; Report *July* 9, 1279
£257,600—War Office Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges, Com., *July* 6 [26] 1149 ; *July* 18 [27] 289 ; Report *July* 19, 487
£1,516,400—Retired Pay, Half-Pay, &c., Com., *July* 18 [27] 308 ; Report *July* 19, 487
£1,355,200—Pensions and other Non-Effective Charges for Warrant Officers, &c., Com., *July* 18 [27] 316 ; Report *July* 19, 487
£164,700—Superannuation and other Allowances, Com., *July* 18 [27] 325 ; Report *July* 19, 488

Army Estimates
Q. Mr. Hanbury ; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 12 [25] 928 ; Q. Mr. Heneage ; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 14, 1102

ARNOLD-FORSTER, Mr. H. O., *Belfast, W.*
Army (Annual) Bill, Com. [23] 560, 561, 581
Army Estimates
  Medical Service [26] 827
  Militia [25] 1034 ; [26] 841, 850
Army Hospital Corps [22] 325
Canadian Cattle Examination [25] 398
Estate Duty and the Colonies [25] 926
General Election, 1892—Police Duty [24] 473
Imperial Defence and the Colonies [26] 1466
Indian Staff Corps Officers [25] 7
Invasion, Preparations against [23] 463
Ireland
  Belfast and Newcastle Post Office [22] 350
  Belfast Post Office Sorting Staff [28] 760
  Clare County, Crime in [22] 325

] *cont.*

[*cont.*

ARNOLD-FORSTER, Mr. H. O.—*cont.*
Ireland—*cont.*
Cork Murder — Photographs of Donovan [24] 813
Cork Street Preaching [22] 1588; [23] 1414
Land-Grabbing Denunciations [24] 22; [25] 554, 1087
O'Leary, Release of [25] 7
Seizures in County Kerry [25] 1086
Mobilisation of Equipment and Store Depôts [23] 1083
Naval and Military Defensive Preparations, Res. [22] 476
Naval Construction [26] 1470
Navy Estimates—Shipbuilding, Repairs, and Maintenance—Personnel [23] 51
Personal Explanation [22] 905
Supply — Administration of Ireland [25] 1550, 1593, 1594
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Com. [27] 1044, 1072, 1085; 3R. [28] 308
Victoria Tower, National Flag on [22] 702
Welsh Cathedrals—Restoration Expenditure [24] 216, 589; [25] 561

ARRAN, Earl of
Pistols Bill, Com. [24] 5, 10

ASHBOURNE, Lord
Agrarian Crime in Ireland [23] 1563, 1567
Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, 2R. [28] 1155
Chimney Sweepers Bill, Com. [27] 1114
Finance Bill, 3R. [27] 1233
Irish Church Fund [25] 279
Law Library, Four Courts (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [23] 1211
Limitation of Actions Bill, 2R. [23] 445
Notice of Accidents Bill, Com. [26] 113; Report of Amendts., 939
Perjury Bill, 2R. [25] 545
Pistols Bill, Com. [24] 8, 10, 11, 12
Post Office and the Employment of Reserve Soldiers [24] 451, 452
Public Libraries (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill, 2R. [27] 1115; Com., 1234, 1236; Report of Amendts. [28] 4
Public Works Loans Bill, Com. [25] 1055
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [28] 750, 907
Tithe Rentcharges (Ireland), Motion for Return [26] 777, 778
Trustee Act, 1893, Amendment Bill, 2R. [23] 448

ASHMEAD-BARTLETT, Sir E., *Sheffield, Ecclesall*
Anglo-Belgian Agreement and France [25] 693, 1095, 1636; [26] 118, 448, 694
Balfour Companies—Extradition of Jabez Balfour, &c. [25] 19, 428; [26] 1310, 1485; [27] 179; [28] 994

[*cont.*

ASHMEAD-BARTLETT, Sir E.—*cont.*
Brazilian Civil War—Loss of British Officers. &c. [22] 331, 867; [27] 1271
British East Africa Company [29] 376
Chino-Japanese War [26] 950, 1070, 1300; [27] 1027, 1145, 1263, 1573; [28] 569; [29] 420
Chisels, Fraudulently-Marked [28] 1223
Finance Bill, Com. [26] 284, 285; 3R. [27] 236
Franco-Congolese Agreement [28] 1252
Franco-Siamese Question [22] 868; [27] 552
Gibraltar New Docks [22] 782; [23] 218
Indian Native Troops, Mutinous Conduct of [24] 1162
Kassala—Occupation of by Italians [27] 666
Kiang Hung—Cession of to China [22] 1098
Naval Expenditure [22] 781
Navy Estimates
Gibraltar Dock [23] 293, 301
Personnel of the Navy [29] 314, 315
Shipbuilding, Repairs, and Maintenance—Personnel [23] 76, 81, 84
Works, Buildings, and Repairs [23] 292, 301
Nile Waterway—Foreign Expedition [24] 756, 914, 999
Parliamentary Voters in Scotland and Ireland [23] 1688
Sierra Leone—Conflict between French and English Soldiers [22] 695; [26] 1574; [28] 994
Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [23] 691
Supply
Anarchists, Treatment of [28] 1458
Anglo-Belgian Agreement, &c. [29] 101, 338
Attorney General's Vote [28] 1490
Balfour, Jabez [29] 78, 83, 84
Bechuanaland, Mashonaland, and Matabeleland [22] 416, 420, 427
Chino-Japanese Affairs [27] 1355
Discussion of the Estimates [29] 121, 122
Foreign Affairs [28] 1474
Parliament Street [24] 977
Siam [27] 1355
Slave Trade in Africa [29] 326
Swaziland [28] 1509
Transvaal, British Subjects in [27] 1461, 1462, 1475, 1477; [28] 1490, 1491, 1493, 1495, 1496, 1502, 1504, 1506
Uganda [22] 398; [29] 333
Tangier, British Warship at [25] 1095
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [27] 758; Com., 1183
Transvaal — British Subjects — Commandeering, &c. [25] 1637; [26] 17, 127, 240, 450, 683, 686, 1296, 1479; [27] 380, 1019, 1549; [28] 461, 561; [29] 282
Underground Railway—Foul Air [26] 22
Wadelai—Hoisting the British Flag [24] 599
Ways and Means — Financial Statement, Com. [22] 1192, 1193

Ashton-under-Lyne Sewage Scheme (see under *Local Government Board*)

ASQUITH, Right Hon. H. H. (Secretary of State for the Home Department), *Fife, E.*
- Anarchists, Treatment of [28] 1246
- Assizes Relief Act [23] 1090
- Bakehouses in London [22] 1106
- Bell's Match Girls' Strike — Case of E. Conway [22] 580; [23] 467, 468
- Bryant and May's Strike — Case of Amelia Gifford [24] 1403
- Building Bye-Laws in London [22] 1107; [27] 1255; [28] 554
- Building Societies Acts [22] 1595
- Bullock, Cruelty to [25] 1633
- Burial Acts [22] 1450
- Burial Board Fees [28] 982
- Business of the House, Res. [22] 1621
- Cab Accidents in the Metropolis [25] 917
- Cab Horses, Treatment of [25] 1089
- Cab Strike [24] 1282, 1302, 1304; [25] 176, 559; [26] 789
- Cemetery Fees at Dalton-in-Furness [27] 1388
- Children, Imprisonment of [22] 150, 151; [23] 1099
- Church of England Marriage Laws [22] 702, 1109
- Coal Mines (Check Weigher) Bill [25] 293; 2R. [27] 1662; [28] 547, 884, 885, 1081; Com., 1150
- Committals for Trial at West Ham [29] 350
- Commoners' Rights [24] 1262
- Convictions, Records of [22] 1001
- Criminal Court of Appeal [24] 607; [28] 998
- Cumberland Assizes [26] 1472
- Cycling [24] 1410; [27] 796, 1263
- Daly, John, Release of [24] 1283
- Death by Chloroform—King's College Hospital [25] 593
- Dissenting Endowments [25] 1095
- Dundee Tailoring Trade [22] 678
- Eight Hours Day Movement [24] 482

- Established Church (Wales) Bill [26] 956; Motion for Leave [23] 1455, 1462, 1482, 1491, 1496, 1537, 1541
  - Cathedrals as Parish Churches [24] 1407; [25] 299
  - Glebe and Tithe Rent-Charge [24] 216, 588
  - Restoration Expenditure [23] 1669; [24] 216, 589; [25] 561, 803
  - Revenue Return [24] 216, 589, 1280; [26] 689
  - Services in Cathedrals [24] 44
  - Structural Arrangement [26] 442
  - Translating into Welsh [24] 36

- Factories and Workshops
  - Breach of Factory Act at Preston [22] 447
  - Exemptions from the Act [27] 1123

[cont.

ASQUITH, Right Hon. H. H.—*cont.*
- Factories and Workshops—*cont.*
  - Female Inspectors [25] 310, 1633; [26] 1070
  - Inspectors' Assistants [25] 578
  - Legislation—Docks and Quays [25] 1470
  - London Workshops, Inspection of [29] 19
  - Wolverhampton Offices [24] 27

- Factories and Workshops Bill, Motion for Leave [23] 1688
- Fairs, Dangerous Amusements at [24] 599
- Featherstone Riots—Compensation [22] 577
- First Offenders, Treatment of [28] 1226
- Glove Fight Near Clapham [24] 600
- Gresham University—Draft Charter [22] 867
- Habitual Inebriates, Committee, &c. [22] 332; [27] 26, 162
- Hackney Carriage Licences in the Metropolis [26] 687
- "Hall-by-the-Sea," Margate — Extension of Licence [28] 550
- Herz, Dr. Cornelius [28] 999
- High Seas, Offences on [29] 416
- Home Office—Licence Fees [22] 1446
- Horses, Cruelty to [23] 16, 1673; [24] 1539; [25] 39; [28] 15
- House of Commons (Vacating of Seats), Select Com. [26] 1165, 1166
- Identification of Criminals [26] 237
- Industrial Schools—St. John's, Walthamstow [29] 170
- Inebriates' Retreat, Walsall [27] 1257
- Ipswich Burial Board [23] 15
- Irish Haymakers, Attack on [28] 262, 985
- Kelsall, Convict [26] 240
- Labour Commission [22] 339; [25] 573
- Labour Minister Bill, 2R. [24] 183
- Laundries and the Factory Bill [25] 591
- Lead Poisoning – Death at Greenwich Workhouse [27] 1022
- Leigh—Alleged Wrongful Imprisonment [28] 765
- Licences, Occasional [22] 1245
- Liquor Legislation in the Manx Legislature [25] 1354
- Lions, Treatment of [24] 1277
- Liverpool City Recorder [24] 28
- Liverpool Houses of Ill-Repute [22] 858
- London District Surveyors [23] 1673
- Long-Sentence Prisoners [26] 135, 783
- Lord Walsingham's Cottage Tenantry [27] 1019

- Lunacy
  - "Commissioners in Lunacy *v.* Sherrard" [22] 584
  - Commissioners' Report [27] 377
  - Increase in [22] 467; [27] 1563

- Magistrates
  - Appointments [23] 12, 208, 1665; [24] 1417
  - Buckell, Mr. R. [23] 189, 190
  - Chairmen of District Councils [28] 6
  - Harewood End Magistrates' Clerk [23] 183

[cont.

ASQUITH, Right Hon. H. H.—*cont.*

- Magistrates—*cont.*
  - Licensing Question and Magistrates' Clerks [25] 1627
  - London Police Magistrates—Sentence on Elizabeth Saunders [27] 1399
  - Wynn, Sir W. W. [23] 1673; [25] 39
- Massage Scandals [27] 664
- Metropolitan Police Court Clerks [22] 343
- Metropolitan Police Courts [25] 1090; [26] 121, 1078
- Mines
  - Albion Colliery Accident [26] 136, 427, 453, 791, 953
  - Assistant Inspectors [27] 176; [28] 1248
  - Celfynydd Explosion [28] 19
  - Check-Weighing Dispute in Scotland [24] 218
  - Coal Dust Commission [22] 314; [26] 955
  - Coal Dust Explosions [27] 1008
  - Colliery Explosion in Wales—Mr. Boskill [27] 176
  - Department for [26] 959; [27] 800
  - Fatalities, Inquiries [27] 800
  - Halkyn Mountain Quarries [27] 160
  - Inspectors' Report [22] 1574
  - Lanarkshire Accident [26] 1480; [27] 23, 1014
  - Metalliferous Mines Inspectors [27] 1243, 1404, 1449, 1452, 1453, 1457; [28] 13, 1443
  - Practical Miners as Inspectors [27] 1570
  - Quarries, Inspection and Regulation of [26] 234; [28] 564, 1240, 1457
  - Scotch Strike [27] 1017
  - Shot Firing [27] 365
  - Wyndham Colliery [27] 1391
- Mines (Eight Hours) Bill [27] 792; 2R. [23] 1376, 1379
- Mining Royalties [22] 1547; [23] 216
- Music Halls—Dangerous Performances [24] 1528
- Non-Payment of Rates, Imprisonment for [27] 664
- Nottingham Execution [22] 1112, 1510; [28] 1449
- Oakington Overseers [24] 38
- Partridges' Eggs, Sentence for Stealing [25] 406
- Petroleum Acts
  - Belfast Lamp Accident [25] 410
  - Clerkenwell Fire [23] 973
  - Committee on [24] 1262; [26] 120
  - Flash Point Oil [24] 1262; [25] 411
- Police, Metropolitan, &c.
  - Accidents—Police Removing Dead Bodies [24] 1402
  - Aldershot and Farnborough Police Station [22] 1446
  - C Division, Metropolitan Police [22] 690
  - Compulsory Re-Vaccination [28] 9
  - Dismissal of H. Kemp [27] 22
  - Dockyard Police Transfer [24] 471
  - Ex-Chief Constable of Warwickshire [24] 36; [25] 592; [28] 761
  - General Election, 1892—Police Duty [24] 473
  - Metropolitan Police Boots [25] 1640; [26] 129, 576, 1075, 1467; [27] 29, 377

[*cont.*

ASQUITH, Right Hon. H. H.—*cont.*

- Police, Metropolitan, &c.—*cont.*
  - Metropolitan Police Uniforms [23] 187
  - Protection Duty [27] 168
  - Social Democrats and the Police [27] 375
  - Whitechapel Procession [24] 234
  - Wigan—Public Meetings [28] 770
  - Worcester Police as Firemen [25] 25
- Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Con. [24] 1640, 1650, 1654, 1657, 1658, 1673, 1677
- Prevention of Cruelty to Children (No. 2) Bill, 2R. [27] 1663; Com. [28] 881, 882
- "Pridham *v.* Jennings" [22] 567, 861
- Prisons
  - Accommodation in the Metropolis [23] 853, 1100
  - Borstal Convict Prison Governor [29] 157
  - Bridewell [24] 223
  - Committee on [24] 1412; [25] 169, 812
  - Convict Prison Officials [25] 1089
  - Dartmoor Officials' Married Quarters [25] 898
  - Female Prisoners — Death at Battersea Police Station [25] 808
  - Kirkdale [22] 316; [26] 450
  - Labour—Sack-Making [23] 14
  - Lady Visitors [23] 632
  - Officers' Promotion [24] 754
  - Warders [22] 1005; [26] 1484
- Public Buildings (London) Bill, Con. [28] 427
- Public Houses—Coupons for Children [25] 1355
- Publicans and Military Pensioners [22] 1452
- Quarries Bill, 2R. [28] 547, 548; Com., 886; Con., 1082
- Quarter Sessions—Bar Practice [27] 1266
- Queen's Speech—Dynamite Prisoners [22] 231
- Railways—Workmen's Cheap Tickets [25] 428
- Religious Intolerance in Hyde Park [27] 1267
- Revolvers and Pistol Accidents, Res. [22] 1040
- Rewards for Arrests of Murderers [25] 1464
- Rotten Row Accidents [26] 230
- Shops, Hours of Labour in [22] 684
- Sittings of the House—Exemption from the Standing Order [28] 888
- Smith, John, Case of [26] 1193
- Solent Explosion [27] 1266
- Supply
  - Anarchists, Treatment of [28] 1459
  - Dangerous Trades [22] 360, 361
  - Home Office [22] 361; [27] 1308
  - House of Commons Offices [22] 354
  - Metalliferous Mines Inspectors—Mr. Leck [27] 1449, 1452, 1453, 1457; [28] 1443
  - Nottingham Execution [28] 1449
  - Quarries Inspectors [28] 1457
  - Welsh Land Commission [29] 107
- Supreme Court (Officers) Bill, Intro. [26] 515
- Tithe Rentcharge [23] 1687
- Vaccination—Prosecutions, &c. [22] 683; [27] 1247

[*cont.*

ASQUITH, Right Hon. H. H.—*cont.*
  Vivisection [24] 1391; [25] 1648
  Von Roemer's Resumption of British Nationality Bill, 2R. [28] 1218

  Wales
    Boxing Contest at Aberdare [25] 177
    Burial Grounds [26] 1463
    Cemetery Consecration in Cardiganshire [27] 1252
    Chief Constable of Cardiganshire and Mr. Lewis [28] 28
    Culliford, Emily, Case of [28] 1000
    Drunken Publicans, Prosecution of [23] 9
    Land Commission, Report, &c. [26] 690; [29] 107
    Mining Questions (see under sub-heading Mines)
    Newcastle-Emlyn County Court Bailiff, Assault on [23] 1076
    Nonconformist Ministers [26] 442
    Tithe Dispute [22] 1246; [24] 1393
    Trade Dispute and the Police [26] 1477; [27] 23, 177, 381; [28] 22
  Wild Birds in Yorkshire—Close Time [22] 149
  Wimbledon Rifle Range Accident [24] 1413; [26] 1076

ATHERLEY-JONES, Mr. L., *Durham, N.W.*
  Accountants Bill, Intro. [25] 1544
  Mines—Assistant Inspectors [28] 1248
  Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, Com. [28] 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014
  Mining Royalties and Easements Bill, Intro. [23] 1638
  Tokar Tribesmen [28] 1242

ATLANTIC
  Derelicts (see that title)
  Liners, Alleged Racing by, Q. Mr. Cohen; A. Mr. Burt *May* 28 [24] 1396
  Steamship Routes, Qs. Mr. Ross; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth, Mr. A. Morley *June* 4 [25] 309

Attercliffe Vacancy (see under *Parliamentary Elections*)

ATTORNEY GENERAL—Sir J. RIGBY

Auckland University (see under NEW ZEALAND)

Auctioneers' Licences
  Q. Mr. W. Isaacson; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 18 [25] 1349

AUSTIN, Mr. M., *Limerick, W.*
  Birkenhead Guardians and the National Dock Labourers' Union [23] 1102
  Customs Service—Promotions [28] 994

[*cont.*

AUSTIN, Mr. M.—*cont.*
  Ireland
    Barbed Wire Fences [23] 1421
    Cork Street Preaching [22] 1518
    Female Factory Inspectors [25] 310
    Haulbowline Dockyard [25] 558
    Labourers' Cottages, Newcastle West [23] 24; [26] 693
    Limerick Children at the Pasteur Institute [25] 293
    Limerick — Emergency Man, Alleged Shooting by [23] 329, 330, 331
    Mixed Trains [25] 1081
    Newcastle West Board of Guardians [27] 24
    Newcastle West Petty Sessions Clerk [25] 13, 584
    Postmen's Pay [25] 306
    Rural Postmen [25] 167
  Mail Contracts—Shipping Companies' Contracts [24] 1275

  Supply
    Irish Lights [28] 1544
    Printing Contracts in Dublin [28] 1570

AUSTRALASIA
  Australasian Customs Act and the Ottawa Conference, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Buxton *May* 24 [24] 1422
  Death Duties, Q. Mr. W. Redmond; A. Sir W Harcourt *June* 7 [25] 589
  Houses of Legislature (*Victoria and New South Wales*), Return to be printed *May* 2 [24] 200
  Mail Contract, Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 24 [24] 1177
  Mails and the United States Riots, Qs. Mr. Hogan; As. Mr. A. Morley *July* 13 [26] 1572; *July* 19 [27] 364
  Naval Service—Discontent, Q. Mr. Gourley; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *July* 30 [27] 1268
  Pacific Cable and the Ottawa Conference, Q. Mr. Crombie; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 8 [25] 689; Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *July* 10 [26] 1305

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY
  International Copyright Acts, 1844 to 1866, Copy pres. *May* 10 [24] 912
  International Copyright, Treaty Series, Copy pres. *May* 2 [24] 200

BADEN-POWELL, Sir G., *Liverpool, Kirkdale*
  Anglo-Belgian Agreement [27] 170, 1264
  Bechuanaland Disturbances [23] 1097
  Behring Sea Award Bill [22] 1457, 1574; 2R., 1469, 1481; Com., 1679, 1682, 1685
  Behring Sea Sealers [23] 219, 460, 1449; [24] 770, 1422
  British East Africa Company—Financial Arrangements [23] 1079
  British Sphere of Influence in East Africa [24] 1420
  Business of the House [22] 270; [26] 960; [27] 288

[*cont.*

Baden-Powell, Sir G.—*cont.*
- China—Importation of Machinery [26] 221
- Corea, Affairs of [25] 415
- Crimping [26] 220, 1301
- Death Duties [23] 990, 1687; [24] 1002, 1189; [25] 924, 1097; [26] 242
- Desertion from British Ships [23] 982
- Dominica—Sir R. Hamilton's Report [27] 165, 1574
- Emigrants on German Steamers [25] 909
- Emigrants on the "Havel" [25] 910
- Finance Bill, Com. [25] 435, 436, 1128, 1130. 1137, 1652, 1653, 1655; [26] 699, 700, 703, 705, 707
- Government Contracts and Trade Union Wages [24] 1182
- Government Dockyards, Wages in [27] 1264
- Government Stocks, Holders of [25] 585
- Hong Kong Plague [25] 1094
- Indian Military and Orphan Funds [27] 1399
- Kirkdale Prison [22] 315; [26] 450
- Liverpool City Boundaries [24] 1183
- Manning Committee [23] 465; [24] 786
- Maxim Guns [24] 806
- Merchant Shipping Acts Consolidation Bill [26] 1300
- Merchant Shipping Bill, 2R. [23] 107
- Military and Naval Defensive Preparations, Res. [22] 503
- Naval Establishments—Expenditure [23] 465
- Naval Reserve [22] 668, 669
- Navy Estimates—Shipbuilding, &c. [23] 286
- Newfoundland Ministerial Crisis [22] 1581; [23] 468
- Ottawa Conference [24] 1170; [25] 1094
- Pacific Cable [24] 1170; [26] 1305
- Passenger Steamers, Overcrowding [24] 770
- Passengers from Foreign Steamers at Queenstown [27] 165
- Pondoland, Annexation of [22] 689
- Recruiting in Africa [24] 1415
- Samoa [22] 1097; [23] 1220, 1434
- Solent Explosion [27] 1265
- Swaziland Convention [26] 1300
- Trade Unions and Wage Earners [24] 1410
- Transvaal—British Subjects [24] 1183; [25] 1637; [26] 684, 1267
- Uganda—Sir G. Portal's Report, &c. [22] 343, 1516, 1581, 1676; [23] 982, 1104; [24] 48
- Unyoro [22] 700
- Wadelai [24] 599, 603

Bagot, Captain J. F., *Westmoreland, Kendal*
- Army Estimates
  - Clothing [26] 968
  - Rifle Ranges, &c. [26] 1089
  - Yeomanry [26] 880
- Compassionate Campaign Pensions [24] 26
- Discharged and Reserve Soldiers, Employment for, Res. [22] 512
- Post Office and the National Telephone Company [25] 1631

[*cont.*

Bagot, Captain J. F.—*cont.*
- Sedgwick School, Westmoreland [25] 566
- Sierra Leone—Conflict between French and English Forces [22] 694; [25] 566
- Uniforms Bill, 2R. [24] 714

Baird, Mr. J. G. A., *Glasgow, Central*
- Japanese Mail Arrangements [26] 445
- Manning Mercantile Marine [24] 1394
- Mining Accidents (Scotland) Bill, Intro. [22] 457

Bakehouses in the Metropolis (see under *Metropolis*)

Baker, Mr. J., *Portsmouth*
- Dockyard Employés and Civic Offices [25] 1220
- Dockyard Labour and Wages, Res. [22] 630
- Indian Troopships [22] 1507

Bakers, Journeymen, Hours of Labour (see under *Labour*)

Baldwin, Mr. A., *Worcester, Bewdley*
- Borough Mayors and the County Bench—Chairmen of District Councils [27] 1003
- Gnarlford National Schools [28] 249
- Grigsby, Dr. [24] 225
- Woolwich Arsenal—Piece-Work [24] 225

Balfour Companies
- Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Mr. R. T. Reid *May* 24 [24] 1187; Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Mr. Bryce *May* 31 [25] 19; Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Mr. R. T. Reid *June* 5, 428; Qs. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; As. Sir J. Rigby *July* 10 [26] 1310; *July* 12, 1485
- *Liberator Building Society*, Q. Mr. Cremer; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 23 [29] 380

Balfour, Jabez Spencer—Extradition of
- Q. Mr. Yerburgh; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 19 [23] 847; Q. Mr. H. Johnstone; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 28 [24] 1411; Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 17 [27] 179; Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Sir E. Grey *July* 20, 553; Q. Mr. Stuart-Wortley; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 2, 1585; Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 9 [28] 479; Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 14, 994; Q. Mr. Cobb; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 22 [29] 282; References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 20 [29] 78, &c.

Balfour, Mr. G. W., *Leeds, Central*
- Building Societies Acts [22] 1594
- Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, Con. [27] 1608, 1614, 1618, 1625, 1627, 1630, 1642, 1645, 1649

[*cont.*

BALFOUR, Mr. G. W.—*cont.*
- Business of the House (Ministerial Statement), Motion for Adjournment of the House [27] 409, 410
- Finance Bill, Com., *cl.* 2 [25] 601 ; *cl.* 4, 750 ; *cl.* 5, 1106 ; *cl.* 14 [26] 33, 34 ; Con., 1278, 1384
- Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, 2R. [23] 1359, 1361, 1365 ; Com. [28] 802, 872, 876, 1001, 1005, 1022
- Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [22] 1151
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Com. [27] 1176, 1186, 1187

BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, Lord
- Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, 2R. [28] 1155 ; Com., 1370, 1372
- Canal Tolls and Charges Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill, Com. [28] 891
- Chimney Sweepers Bill, 3R. [28] 4
- County Councils Association (Scotland) Expenses Bill, 2R. [23] 1069
- Crown Lands Bill, Com. [28] 892
- East London Water Bill, 2R. [26] 205, 517, 525
- Indian Opium Commission [28] 1
- Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Com. [28] 1167, 1168, 1169, 1172, 1173, 1175, 1176, 1177, 1182, 1184, 1186, 1187, 1189, 1190, 1191, 1193, 1195, 1198, 1200, 1201, 1202, 1203, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1210, 1211, 1212 ; Report, 1359, 1361, 1363
- Notice of Accidents Bill, 2R. [25] 1614 ; Com. [26] 112, 113
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [28] 666, 670
- Uniforms Bill, 3R. [28] 1165

BALFOUR, Right Hon. A. J., *Manchester, E.*
- Army Estimates [26] 871
- Behring Sea Award Bill [22] 1595 ; 2R., 1468 ; Com., 1684
- Business of the House, *Qs.* [22] 156, 267, 271, 587, 1460, 1520, 1675 ; *Res.*, 1603, 1607, 1648 ; *Qs.* [23] 812, 1454 ; [24] 488, 1424 ; *Res.* [25] 46, 66, 77, 81 ; *Qs.* [26] 772, 959 ; [27] 282, 289, 488, 673 ; [28] 1152 ; *Res.*, 1261, 1262
  - Introduction of and Ballotting for Bills [22] 132, 133, 135, 159, 160, 161
  - Ministerial Statement, Motion for Adjournment of the House [27] 398, 415, 418, 421
  - Procedure on the Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Bill, Res. [27] 1411, 1415, 1417, 1419, 1420, 1427, 1429, 1434, 1437, 1443
  - Sittings and Adjournments of the House—Twelve o'Clock Rule, Suspension of [23] 637 ; [27] 563
- Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act (1887) Repeal Bill, 2R. [23] 805
- Established Church (Wales) Bill, Motion for Leave [23] 1482, 1702, 1713

BALFOUR, Right Hon. A. J.—*cont.*
- Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 865, 866, 892, 897, 900 ; Com., *cl.* 1, 1219, 1222, 1232, 1233, 1234, 1239, 1241, 1249, 1477, 1480, 1489, 1490, 1494, 1558, 1559, 1563, 1602, 1604, 1607, 1608, 1610 ; [25] 108, 125, 127, 129, 327, 345, 346, 366, 368, 369, 372, 380, 381 ; *cl.* 2, 435, 456, 457, 464, 465, 467, 489, 510, 517, 537, 609, 611, 613, 614, 616 ; *cl.* 3. 664, 666, 724, 730 ; *cl.* 4, 747, 751, 758 ; *cl.* 5, 884, 959, 979, 983, 1118, 1148, 1149 ; *cl.* 6 [25] 1235, 1256, 1289, 1296, 1300, 1305, 1306, 1362, 1377, 1392, 1395 ; *cl.* 7, 1421, 1481, 1488, 1490, 1511 ; *cl.* 9, 1532, 1534, 1535, 1536 ; *cl.* 10, 1671, 1672 ; *cl.* 13, 1694, 1697 ; *cl.* 14, 1708, 1711 ; [26] 43, 56 ; *cl.* 15, 63 ; *cl.* 16, 99, 100 ; *cl.* 17, 147, 159 ; *cl.* 18, 197, 199, 201, 202 ; *cl.* 19, 262, 265 ; *cl.* 28, 465 ; *cl.* 29, 476, 498 ; *cl.* 31, 509, 510 ; *New cls.* [26] 624, 640, 645, 652, 653, 655, 730 ; Con., 1207, 1214, 1216, 1232, 1262, 1325, 1326, 1343, 1355, 1377, 1383, 1388, 1389, 1395, 1404, 1410, 1414, 1431, 1434, 1505, 1577, 1579, 1584, 1607, 1610, 1624, 1641 ; Con. [27] 55, 57, 59, 61, 73 ; 3R., 254
  - Closure of the Spirit Duty Clause [26] 457, 459, 460
- French Republic—Assassination of the President, Motion for Address [26] 247
- Home Rule for Scotland [22] 1311, 1315
- Ireland, Administration of [25] 1101
- Irish Crops, Condition of [28] 1247
- Irish Land Acts, Select Com. [22] 1455 ; [23] 308, 309, 312, 589
- Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Motion for Leave [23] 1630, 1634, 1635 ; Con. [28] 412, 415, 416, 418, 420, 511, 536, 542, 543, 545
- Military and Naval Defensive Preparations, Res. [22] 490
- Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, Com. [28] 1004, 1047
- Navy Estimates [23] 289
  - Shipbuilding, Repairs, and Maintenance—Personnel [23] 58, 68
- Period of Qualification and Elections Bill, Intro. [23] 379 ; 2R. [24] 132
- Privilege—Lord Rosebery's Speech at Edinburgh, Res. [22] 598
- Queen's Speech, Reply to [22] 48, 70, 253, 254
  - Administration of Ireland [22] 245, 246
  - Gladstone, Right Hon. W. E.—Retirement from Office [22] 49
  - House of Lords Offices [22] 245, 261
- Saxe-Coburg, Duke of (Annuity), Res. [23] 1060, 1061
- Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [22] 1127, 1502 ; [23] 658, 679, 685, 998, 1015, 1029, 1600, 1601, 1604
- Standing Orders [22] 608
- Supply—Christian Brothers' Schools, Ireland [29] 247, 249
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [23] 875, 876, 877, 883, 884 ; 2R. [27] 763, 765, 766, 768, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 783 ; Com., *cl.* 1, 1045, 1064, 1067, 1069, 1070, 1087, 1088, 1091, 1094, 1095, 1154, 1159, 1162, 1168, 1178, 1204, 1205, 1213, 1214, 1215 ; 3R. [28] 347, 348

[*cont.*

[*cont.*

BALFOUR, Right Hon. A. J.—*cont.*
- Tithe Rent-Charge [23] 1687
- Uganda Railway [25] 312
- Vacation of Seat on Succession to Peerage, Motion for Select Com. [26] 414
- Waltham Abbey Powder Factory Explosion Inquiry [22] 155
- Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 1121, 1150, 1223
- York, Duke and Duchess of—Birth of a Son, Motion for an Address [26] 461

BALFOUR, Right Hon. J. B. (Lord Advocate), *Clackmannan, &c.*
- Arran Foreshore—Case of T. Anderson, Fisherman [23] 10
- Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, Con. [27] 1613, 1623, 1625, 1626, 1640, 1643, 1647, 1652, 1659; [28] 227
- Cess and Stent Taxes [23] 25, 1214
- Coll Free Church Minister [25] 409, 1101, 1620
- County Council Deputations to London [25] 402
- County Councils—Statutory Meetings [22] 336
- Crofter Rents [25] 1218
- Day Trespass Act, Prosecution under [22] 433
- Deer Forest Commission [25] 1100
- Dingwall Poaching Prosecutions [22] 859, 1252, 1570; [26] 799
- Dog Licences [24] 1524; [29] 15
- Elgin—Prosecutions for Burning [24] 472
- Employers' Liability Bill [23] 853
- "Escaped Nun" Prosecution at Glasgow [23] 1669
- Fatal Accidents Inquiry (Scotland) Bill, Intro. [22] 1688
- Feus and Leases Committee [25] 570
- Finance Bill, Com. [26] 253, 254, 255, 260; Con. [27] 103
- Fiscal for Ross and Cromarty—Application for Licences [24] 999
- Fishermen's Rights [28] 239
- Gaelic Language—Sheriff Substitute for Sutherlandshire [23] 610
- Game Prosecutions—Case of G. Milne [28] 551
- Glasgow Art Exhibition [23] 986
- Glasgow Faculty of Procurators [25] 41
- Grazing on Public Roads [26] 1191
- Hall, Mr. H., Case of [26] 683
- Heritable Securities (Scotland) Bill, Re-com. [26] 512
- Insanitary Dwellings in Sutherlandshire [27] 1255
- Intoxicants—Sale of to Children [25] 1210
- Ironworkers' Wages [25] 1343
- Law Agents and Procurator Fiscals [25] 790
- Lewis Procurator Fiscal [23] 613
- Licensing Courts and Procurator Fiscals [25] 167
- Licensing Question, Glasgow [23] 1217

[*cont.*

BALFOUR, Right Hon. J. B.—*cont.*
- Licensing Question, Stornoway [24] 761
- Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Con. [28] 416, 418, 419, 487, 488, 491, 498, 499, 500, 502, 503, 506, 511, 513, 514, 522, 523, 524, 530, 536, 574, 582, 584, 585, 586, 587, 589, 590, 592, 593, 601, 609, 612, 613, 614, 615, 623, 634; Lords Amendts. [29] 288, 289
- Loch Tarbert Fisheries [27] 1262
- Lochmaddy Procurator Fiscal [22] 862
- Magistrates' Appointment Fees [23] 190
- Moray Firth Fishermen and Water Bailiffs [23] 612; [24] 25
- Mussel Scalps (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [26] 875
- North Berwick Provisional Order Bill, Res. [22] 675
- Oban Salmon Fishing Prosecutions [27] 1262
- Police Pension Fund [24] 807
- Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, 2R. [22] 1377; Com. [24] 1088, 1104, 1113; Con., 1638
- Saddell Tenancy Dispute [22] 857
- Service Franchise [23] 841
- Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [22] 1199
- Supreme Court of Judicature (Procedure) Bill [25] 293
- Tiree Crofters—Erection of a March Dyke [27] 359
- Trawling [22] 145, 333; [24] 776; [28] 12
- Wemyss, &c., Water Provisional Order Bill, Intro. [23] 424

BALLANTINE, Mr. W. H. W., *Coventry*
- Coventry Charities [28] 549
- Income Tax Commissioners [28] 1236
- Nottingham Execution [22] 1112, 1510; [23] 335; [28] 1445, 1446, 1447, 1453

BANBURY, Mr. F. G., *Camberwell, Peckham*
- Army Estimates—Suez Canal Shares [26] 1146
- Building Societies Bill, Intro. [22] 432; 2R. [23] 1549
- Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, Con. [27] 1608, 1610, 1615, 1626, 1645
- East London Water Bill, 2R. [22] 1402, 1404, 1405
- Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, 2R. [27] 856, 860
- Finance Bill, Com. [25] 379, 380, 652, 725, 1144; [26] 39; Con., 1536, 1634, 1642
- Parochial Electors (Registration Acceleration) Bill, Com. [26] 1155
- Police (Slaughter of Injured Animals) Bill, Intro. [24] 140; 2R., 747
- Public Buildings (London) Bill, Com. [24] 1124, 1125
- Supply
  - Houses of Parliament [22] 983
  - Inspector General of Bankruptcy [24] 976
- Ways and Means—Financial Statement [23] 1187

BANGKOK (*see under* SIAM)

BANGOR, Bishop of
  Endowed Schools Act, 1869, and Amending Acts, and Welsh Intermediate Education Act, 1889 (Scheme for the County of Anglesey), Res. [23] 593, 597

Bank of England
  Silver, Glut of, Q. Sir F. Dixon-Hartland; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 14 [25] 1099

Bankruptcy Administration in Sussex
  Case of Mr. Warren, Qs. Mr. H. Johnstone; As. Mr. Bryce *June* 1 [25] 167; *June* 21, 1634; *June* 22 [26] 10; Q. Mr. H. Johnstone; A. Sir J. Rigby *July* 12, 1484

Banks, Money-Lending
  Q. Mr. Yerburgh; A. Mr. Mundella *May* 10 [24] 811

Banstead Common
  Q. Lord G. Hamilton; A. Sir C. Russell *April* 9 [22] 1582

Barker and Co., Failure of (see under *Trade, Board of*)

BARLOW, Mr. J. E., *Somerset, Frome*
  Established Church (Wales) Bill, Motion for Leave [23] 1515

Barnet Local Board District
  Q. Mr. V. Gibbs; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 26 [23] 1425

Barracks (see under *Army*)

BARRAN, Mr. J., *York, W.R., Otley*
  Thames Conservancy Bill, Con. [26] 1294

BARROW, Mr. R. V., *Southwark, Bermondsey*
  Army Estimates—Warlike and other Stores —Contracts [26] 1000, 1002, 1003, 1005
  Bakehouses in London [22] 1106, 1507
  Debenture Bonds, Registration of [24] 237
  Directors, Public Examination of [24] 913
  Enfield and Sparkbrook Factories [22] 1580
  Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill [24] 609; 2R. [27] 852, 856
  Franchise (England and Wales) Bill, Intro. [23] 426
  Local Government Act — London Vestry Elections [22] 335
  Journeymen Bakers' Hours of Labour [29] 370
  Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, 2R. [24] 724
  Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill, Con. [28] 120, 122

Barry Dock and Railway Act, 1888, Amendment Bill
c. As amended, Con. *June* 27 [26] 321

BARRY, Mr.
  Ireland—Probate Registrars, Payment of [26] 18

BARRY, Mr. A. H. SMITH-, *Hunts, S.*
  Cork Murder [24] 207
  Hong Kong—Vaccination [24] 599
  Irish Land Acts—Select Committee, Res. [23] 397
  Land Tenure (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [23] 146, 147
  Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [27] 638, 640; Com., 1051

BARRY, Mr. E., *Cork Co., S.*
  Ireland
    Cork (West) Post Office [23] 11
    Income Tax and Labourers' Cottages [24] 46, 1188
    Labourers' Act, Expenses under [23] 1662
    Labourers' Cottages, Clonakilty [23] 633
    Skibbereen Custom House [22] 1572

Barry Railway Bill
c. Motion for Re-com. *June* 27 [26] 321
  Obs. Mr. A. Williams, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bryce, Sir T. Fry *June* 29 [26] 560

BARTLEY, Mr. G. C. T., *Islington, N.*
  Admiralty Buildings, New [23] 194
  Aldershot Water Supply [28] 991
  Army Candidates, Medical Examination of [28] 987
  Army Estimates
    Crimean and Indian Mutiny Veterans [27] 318, 324
    Hospital and Charitable Institutions [26] 1142, 1143
    Imperial Defence Act—Suez Canal Shares [26] 1145, 1147
    Military Education [26] 1121
  Army Pensioners—Payment of Pensions [22] 1453; [23] 12, 13
  Barker and Company's Failure [23] 335
  Buckell, Mr. R. [23] 190
  Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, Con. [25] 492; [27] 1608, 1611, 1614, 1619, 1622, 1624, 1627, 1631, 1637, 1645, 1655; [28] 227, 405
  Business of the House [22] 154, 270; Res. 1638; [23] 1384; [24] 914, 1546; [25] 74; [27] 1145, 1556; Res. [28] 1259
    Ministerial Statement—Motion for Adjournment of the House [27] 414
  Cab Stands in London [23] 1419
  Chelsea Board School [24] 808
  Chino-Japanese War—Case of the "Kowshing" [29] 386
  Church Patronage Bill, Intro. [22] 450; 2R. [24] 142

[*cont.*

BARTLEY, Mr. G. C. T.—*cont.*
  Civil List Pension to Professor Rhys-Davids [26] 1486
  Coldbath Fields Money Order Office [27] 1121
  Compound Householders' Grievances [24] 1165
  Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill, 2R. [23] 1201
  Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [28] 482
  "Corkage" at Temperance Hotels [22] 1114
  Crimean Veterans, Destitute [26] 219, 944
  Crown and Unwilled Property—Case of Mrs. Adams [25] 798
  Crown Lands Bill, Re-com. [28] 113
  Death Duties [23] 1682; [24] 479; [25] 1353, 1645; [27] 30; [29] 374
  Dockyards—Eight Hours Day [25] 573
  Eastbourne School Accommodation [22] 338
  Education Department—"Warned" Schools [27] 1139
  Epidemics among Pauper School Children [25] 284
  Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, Qs. [23] 220; [24] 1190; [28] 428, 479; 2R., [27] 832, 845, 846, 856, 860, 871, 937; Com., [28] 56, 65, 70, 72, 73, 92, 100, 106, 109, 111, 180, 189, 191, 196, 216, 222, 377, 381, 395, 396, 398
  Evening School Code [23] 1223
  Explosives—Shipping of at Plymouth [26] 1568; [27] 547
  Finance Bill [23] 1682; 2R. [24] 534; Instr. to Com., 1215; Com., *cl.* 1, 1250, 1251, 1471, 1473, 1546; *cl.* 2 [25] 435, 454, 455, 467, 474, 478, 480, 481, 485, 486, 521, 530, 531, 532, 533, 619, 631; *cl.* 3, 726, 741; *cl.* 4, 752, 755, 857, 866, 875; *cl.* 5, 947, 969, 975, 976, 983, 1140, 1144, 1151, 1155; *cl.* 6 [25] 1237, 1238, 1239, 1240, 1270, 1274, 1280, 1289, 1290, 1356, 1359, 1361, 1362, 1363, 1364, 1373, 1375, 1381; *cl.* 7, 1398, 1400, 1407, 1413, 1427, 1499, 1500, 1501, 1502, 1503, 1508, 1509, 1511; *cl.* 8, 1516; *cl.* 9 [25] 1519, 1531, 1532, 1540; *cl.* 10, 1651, 1656, 1657, 1666, 1669, 1678; *cl.* 11, 1682; *cl.* 13, 1690, 1695; *cl.* 14, 1701; [26] 23, 25, 53; *cl.* 16, 139; *cl.* 17, 164, 166, 172, 173, 174, 175, 179; *cl.* 29, 470, 474, 477, 489; *New cls.*, 645, 646, 652, 725, 726, 742, 745; Con., 1206, 1248, 1249, 1275, 1276, 1334, 1335, 1367, 1375, 1427, 1511, 1519, 1524, 1543, 1547, 1576, 1584, 1611, 1654; [27] 57, 67, 108, 112, 113
  Government Contracts—Board of Trade Publications [23] 977
  House of Lords—Rejection of Bills [29] 22
  Income Tax [22] 1009, 1043, 1051, 1052
  Indian Railway Companies Bill, Motion for Leave [23] 1066; 2R. [24] 573, 574; Com., 1494, 1495
  Inhabited House Duty [26] 1195
  Inland Revenue Affidavit—Estate Duty [29] 374
  Ireland
    Church Fund [22] 581
    Death Duties (*see* that sub-heading)

[*cont.*

BARTLEY, Mr. G. C. T.—*cont.*
  Ireland—*cont.*
    Disturbances in the Gweedore District [23] 19
    Evictions, Number of [28] 444
    Strabane Voting Lists [28] 1388
  Joint Stock Companies' Register Bill, 2R. [25] 1434
  Labour Commission Reports [25] 573
  Ladies' Gallery [23] 1449
  Law Faculty for London University [28] 562
  Lightships—The Smalls [22] 314
  Liquor Traffic (Local Control) Bill [23] 1225; [24] 914
  Manning of Ships Committee [24] 1166
  Merchant Shipping Bill [28] 460; Re-com. 114, 115, 363, 364
  Metalliferous Mines Inspectors [28] 15
  Mines (Eight Hours) Bill [26] 1196
  Mount Pleasant Money Order Office [26] 687
  Naval Expenditure [26] 456
  Occupying Tenants' Enfranchisement Bill, Intro. [22] 787
  Old Age Provident Pensions Bill, 2R. [22] 1324, 1349, 1353, 1354, 1371
  Outdoor Provident Relief Bill, Intro. [22] 787
  Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, 2R. [24] 722
  "Parliamentary Debates" Index [22] 1444; [25] 16
  Parochial Electors (Registration Acceleration) Bill, 2R. [24] 922; Con. [26] 1153, 1158, 1161, 1163; 3R., 1390
  Period of Qualification and Elections Bill, Res. [23] 393
  Places of Worship (Sites) Bill, 2R. [24] 993
  Post Office Savings Banks Consolidation Bill [26] 961
  Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Con., [24] 1666, 1667
  Public Libraries (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill, Re-com. [27] 784, 785
  Public Works Loans Bill, Com. [25] 130, 131
  Railway and Canal Traffic Bill, 2R. [26] 102
  Re-directed Postal Matter [25] 23
  St. Lawrence School, Waltham [28] 461
  Savings Banks (Societies) Bill, Com. [25] 1162, 1164, 1314; Withdrawal [27] 115
  Secondary Education Commission [23] 200
  South Kensington Museum Buildings [26] 687
  Standing Orders, Amendment of [28] 1221
  Supply
    British Museum [22] 1065, 1067
    Civil List Pensions — Professor Rhys-Davids [27] 1291, 1292, 1296
    Coldbath Fields Money Order Office [24] 952
    Colonial Service, &c. [29] 100
    Diplomatic and Consular Buildings [22] 1089, 1090
    Extension of Admiralty Buildings [22] 988, 991, 993
    Houses of Parliament [22] 982
    Indian Opium Commission [29] 102, 107, 108, 110, 111

[*cont.*

BARTLEY, Mr. G. C. T.—*cont.*
- Supply—*cont.*
  - King's College, &c. [29] 229
  - Metalliferous Mines Inspector—Mr. Leck [28] 1442
  - Metropolitan Police Courts [22] 996
  - Phœnix Park, &c. [28] 1413, 1415
  - Post Office Buildings [24] 924
  - Public Buildings—Insurances, &c. [24] 975, 976
  - Rating of Government Property [27] 1284; [28] 1403
  - Science and Art Department [29] 215
  - Secondary Education Commission [29] 112
  - South Kensington Museum [22] 1070, 1074, 1079; [27] 1298
- Telegraphic Mistakes in Transmission [27] 16
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Com. [27] 1498
- Thames and Severn Canal [24] 805; [28] 980
- Thames Conservancy Bill, Con. [26] 1293, 1294
- Transvaal
  - Commandeering [26] 17
  - Mining Industry [26] 125
- Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 1154, 1156, 1188, 1198
- West Ham Town Clerkships [27] 362, 363
- Wimbledon Rifle Range [26] 1076

BARTON, Mr. D. P., *Armagh, Mid.*
- Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act (1887) Repeal Bill, 2R. [23] 758, 759, 760, 763, 764
- Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 610, 611, 887; Com. [26] 310
- Ireland
  - Armagh District Lunatic Asylum Loan [24] 1400
  - Carlow Lunatic Asylum [27] 1401
  - Cork Street Preaching [22] 1516
  - Evicted Farms [28] 1391
  - Gweedore District Disturbances [23] 18
  - Land Acts, Select Com. on [22] 1456
  - Mungret Eviction [27] 1401
  - Presbyterian Children at Armagh, Attack on [28] 568
- Supply—Irish Police Huts, &c. [28] 1418
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [27] 572, 574, 579, 580; Com., 1068, 1074, 1083, 1084, 1101, 1103, 1170, 1180, 1215
- Ways and Means—Financial Statement [23] 1189

BAYLEY, Mr. E. H., *Camberwell, N.*
- Cab Strike [25] 559
- Camberwell School Accommodation [22] 562
- Coldbath Fields Money Order Office [27] 1582
- Hackney Carriage Licences in the Metropolis [26] 687
- Metropolitan Police Uniforms [23] 187

[*cont.*

BAYLEY, Mr. E. H.—*cont.*
- Post Office Employés and Bank Holidays [24] 462
- Ramsgate Lifeboat [25] 682
- Supply—Lifeboats [28] 1528, 1537, 1538

BAYLEY, Mr. T., *Derbyshire, Chesterfield*
- Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, 2R. [23] 1348
- Training Colleges [23] 1583

BEACH, Right Hon. Sir M. H., *Bristol, W.*
- Bishopric of Bristol Act (1884) Amendment Bill, Intro. [22] 461; 2R. [25] 1724
- Bristol Tramways Bill, Con. [27] 999
- Business of the House [26] 578, 920, 1312; [27] 386, 390, 393, 394; [28] 479, 778
- Commercial Treaties [27] 552
- Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill, 2R. [23] 1324
- Diseases of Animals Bill, Con. [28] 877
- Elementary Education Bill, 2R. [26] 1436
- Established Church (Wales) Bill — Motion for Leave [23] 1484, 1489, 1491, 1496, 1694, 1730, 1768, 1771, 1775
- Estate Duty [23] 857, 988
- Finance Bill, Com., *cl.* 1 [25] 130, 322, 340, 341, 342; *cl.* 2, 384, 470, 478, 479, 522, 523, 524, 529, 533, 617, 618, 621, 636; *cl.* 3, 637, 642; *cl.* 4, 865; *cl.* 5, 930, 933, 943, 1102, 1107, 1135; *cl.* 6 [25] 1232, 1241, 1242, 1245, 1249, 1250, 1371, 1372, 1389, 1396; *cl.* 7, 1397, 1398, 1417, 1419, 1423, 1499, 1500; *cl.* 10, 1658, 1675, 1676; *cl.* 15 [26] 57, 59, 62, 63, 64; *cl.* 16, 94; *cl.* 17, 142, 143, 191; *cl.* 31, 511, 580; *New cls.*, 622, 626, 630, 632, 633, 636, 637, 651; Con. [26] 1198, 1208, 1209, 1214, 1243, 1257, 1320, 1332, 1333, 1385, 1402, 1419, 1492, 1499, 1514, 1529, 1536, 1575, 1578, 1580, 1581, 1603, 1610, 1620; [27] 40, 41, 45, 78, 82, 97, 108
- Great Western and Midland Railway Companies Bill [28] 481; 2R. [27] 543, 545
- Housing of the Working Classes (Borrowing Powers) Bill, 2R. [28] 115, 366, 367
- Light Dues, Committee on [28] 560, 991
- Limitation of Actions Bill, 2R. [25] 1430
- Marking of Foreign Meat [23] 26
- Merchant Shipping Bill, Re-com. [28] 363, 364
- Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, Com. [28] 811
- Parochial Electors (Registration Acceleration) Bill, 2R. [23] 1779, 1780
- Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Com. [28] 546
- Quarries Bill, 2R. [28] 548; Com., 885
- Railway and Canal Traffic Bill [27] 1019; 2R. [26] 101; Com. [28] 644, 646, 785, 796; Con., 1076
- Supreme Court of Judicature (Procedure) Bill, 2R. [25] 387

[*cont.*

BEACH, Right Hon. Sir M. H.—*cont.*
Ways and Means
Financial Statement, Com. [23] 544, 545, 548, 552, 1113, 1117, 1118, 1122, 1186, 1257, 1268, 1271, 1272, 1274, 1275, 1316
Res. to authorise Clause 15 of the Finance Bill, Com. [25] 1650
Weights and Measures—Select Com. [26] 202

Beaconsfield's Statue—Alleged Decoration of by the Board of Works
Q. Mr. Cremer; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *April* 20 [23] 980

Beaufort's, Duke of, Tenants
Q. Mr. Saunders; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 26 [27] 1018

BECHUANALAND (*see under* AFRICA)

Beer Adulteration Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Round; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 451
[Dropped]

Behar Cadastral Survey (see under INDIA)

Behring Sea Arbitration
Cost of, Q. Mr. Cremer; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 3 [24] 236; Q. Mr. H. Johnstone; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 5 [25] 408; Q. Mr. Cremer; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 2 [27] 1572

Behring Sea Award Act
Qs. Sir G. Baden-Powell, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir E. Grey *April* 26 [23] 1449
Copy pres. *May* 10 [24] 911

Behring Sea Award Bill
c. Intro., Sir C. Russell; Read 1° *Mar* 29 [22] 998
Read 2° *April* 5, 1461
Con. in Com., and reported; Read 3°, and passed *April* 9, 1676
l. Read 1ª *April* 10 [23] 3
Read 2ª *April* 12, 174
Com.; Standing Com. negatived *April* 16, 448
Amendts. reported; Read 3ª, and passed *April* 17, 607
c. Lords Amendts. con., and agreed to *April* 17, 741
l. Royal Assent *April* 23, 1069
[57° Vic. c. 2]

Behring Sea Award Bill
Qs. Sir G. Baden-Powell, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Mr. Buxton *April* 5 [22] 1457; Qs. Sir G. Baden-Powell, Sir A. Rollit, Mr. J. Chamberlain, Mr. Bartley; As. Mr. Buxton, Sir E. Grey, Sir C. Russell *April* 9, 1574; Q. Mr. A. J. Balfour; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 9, 1595
[*cont.*

Behring Sea Award Bill—cont.
Canada, Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Mr. Buxton *April* 12 [23] 212; Qs. Mr. Hanbury, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Mr. Buxton *April* 12, 216; Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. Buxton *April* 12, 219; Qs. Sir G. Baden-Powell, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Mr. Buxton *April* 16, 460

Behring Sea Sealers
Arbitration Regulations, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Sir J. Rigby *May* 28 [24] 1422
Instructions to Commanders of War Vessels, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 10 [24] 770
Treaty Between United States and Russia, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 10 [24] 770

BEITH, Mr. G., *Inverness, &c.*
Forres Borough Auditorship [24] 1175; [26] 951

BELGIUM
Anglo-Belgian Agreement (see under AFRICA)
Commercial Treaties, Qs. Sir A. Rollit, Sir M. H. Beach; As. Sir E. Grey *July* 20 [27] 552; Qs. Sir A. Rollit, Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir E. Grey *July* 30, 1238

BELMORE, Earl of
Irish Church Fund [24] 1365; [25] 274, 280
Public Works Loans Bill, 2R. [25] 894, 895; Com., 1053, 1054, 1055, 1165
Tithe Rentcharges (Ireland), Motion for Return [26] 775

Benefices in Wales (see under WALES)

BENN, Mr. J. W., *Tower Hamlets, St. George's*
Business of the House, Res. [25] 75, 76
County of London
Agricultural Official Forms [25] 691
Inland Revenue Department [25] 590
Main Roads Expenditure Returns [25] 685
East London Water Bill, 2R. [22] 1404, 1405, 1419
Enfield and Sparkbrook Factories [22] 1437
Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, 2R. [27] 870, 877, 878, 902
Gresham University Commission [23] 1575
Labour Commission, Cost of [23] 1576
London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Fares [22] 1249
Railway Fares [23] 851
Telephone Companies [28] 1249, 1269
Thames Ironworks and Naval Contracts [26] 569
Unification of London Report [28] 1251
Woolwich Arsenal Machinery and the Thames Whitebait [23] 1408

BENNETT, Mr. J., *Lincolnshire, Gainsborough*
Uniforms Bill, 2R. [24] 716

BENSON, Mr. G. R., *Oxfordshire, Woodstock*
Post Cards—Adhesive Stamps [29] 417

BENTINCK, Mr. W. G. C., *Penryn and Falmouth*
Warren Hastings Island—Loss of the "Blair Athole" [23] 852

Berlin Act
Q. Mr. J. A. Pease; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 28 [24] 1404; Q. Mr. Lawrence; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 29, 1540

BETHELL, Commander G. R., *York, E.R., Holderness*
Army Estimates—Militia [26] 861
British Central Africa, Gunpowder in [26] 1478
Channel Fleet [26] 135
Coaling the Channel Squadron [25] 1223
Congo Free State and France [25] 174, 1082
Finance Bill, Com., *cl.* 1 [25] 348, 356, 708, 1415, 1479, 1502, 1540, 1677, 1678, 1706; [26] 55; Con., 1338, 1546; [27] 50, 57
Kerckhoven's Expedition [22] 1576
Lado—Congo Free State Exhibition, &c. [22] 699
Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Con. [28] 501
Naval Reserve [22] 660
Navy Estimates
  Gibraltar Docks [23] 302
  Shipbuilding, Repairs, &c. [23] 46, 69, 101
  Works, Buildings, and Repairs [23] 302
Nyassaland and the Oil Rivers Protectorate, [25] 180
Parochial Electors (Registration Acceleration) Bill, Com. [26] 1154
Political Opinions of Voters [28] 1229
Pondoland, Annexation of [22] 1577
Sea Fisheries (Shell Fish) Bill, 2R. [25] 1433
Supply
  Anglo-Belgian Agreement [27] 1310, 1314
  Board Schools, &c. [22] 827, 828
  British East Africa Company, &c. [28] 1480
  Civil Servants and Civic Offices [27] 1304
  East Coast of Yorkshire [28] 1394
  Nottingham Execution [28] 1455
  Ordnance Survey [24] 988
  Transvaal [28] 1498
Swine Fever Regulations [23] 840
Unyoro and Colonel Colville [22] 700
Zulu Prisoners [22] 1576

Bethnal Green Museum
References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Mar* 30 [22] 1069

Betterment—Town Improvements
London County Council and the Duchy of Lancaster, Motion for Papers (Earl of Onslow) *July* 13 [26] 1549
Standing Orders of the House, Amendment of, *Aug* 16 [28] 1220

Betterment — Town Improvements—Select Committee
Motion for Select Com. (Earl of Morley) *April* 16 [23] 446
Com. nominated *April* 23 [23] 1072
Additions to Com. *April* 24 [23] 1212; *April* 27, 1575
Printing of Evidence, &c., *June* 8 [25] 670
Report *July* 10 [26] 1286; *July* 19 [27] 336
Copy of Report, &c., for the Commons, *Aug* 10 [28] 650; *Aug* 13, 754

Betting and Gambling—Legislation
Q. Mr. W. Johnston; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 8 [25] 694

BIDDULPH, Mr. M., *Herefordshire, Ross*
Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 526; Com. [26] 489, 492
Income Tax [25] 1645; [26] 797, 1312

BIGWOOD, Mr. J., *Middlesex, Brentford*
Finance Bill, Com. [26] 368; Con. [27] 105, 107
Returning Officers at Local Government Elections [25] 1342

BILL, Mr. C., *Staffordshire, Leek*
Allotments Returns [23] 207
Army Estimates—Rifle Ranges [25] 1005
Building Societies (No. 2) Bill [25] 1226
Estate Duty [25] 35

Billingsgate Tolls
Q. Mr. H. Foster; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 27 [27] 1133; Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 17 [28] 1387

BILLSON, Mr. A., *Devon, Barnstaple*
Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, Con. [27] 1631, 1658
Ground Game Act (1880) Amendment Bill, Intro. [22] 453
Period of Qualification and Elections Bill, 2R. [24] 293

Bimetallism (see *Currency*)

BIRKMYRE, Mr. W., *Ayr, &c.*
Arran Foreshores [23] 10
Campbeltown Loch — Proposed Hatchery [27] 665
Clyde Fisheries [25] 1458; [26] 952

[*cont.*

BIRKMYRE, Mr. W.—*cont.*
  Finance Bill, Com. [26] 330; Writing Amendts. at the Table [25] 475
  Mussel Scalps (Scotland) Bill, Intro. [23] 748; 2R. [26] 875, 1390
  Secondary Education in Ayrshire [27] 25, 366
  Volunteer Decoration [23] 10

Birmingham
  Inaccurate Death Certificates (see under *Vaccination*)
  Public Records, Copy pres. *April* 16 [23] 592

BIRRELL, Mr. A., *Fife, W.*
  Church Patronage Bill, 2R. [24] 153
  Finance Bill, 3R. [27] 248
  Home Rule for Scotland, Res. [22] 1294
  Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, 2R. [23] 1353

Births, Deaths, and Marriages (England)
  Copy pres. of Report *Aug* 22 [29] 344

Birthday Honours (see *Queen's Birthday Honours*)

Bishopric of Bristol Act (1884) Amendment Bill
c. Intro., Sir M. Hicks-Beach; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 461
  Read 2° *June* 21 [25] 1723
  Con. in Com.; Reported; Read 3°, and passed *June* 22 [26] 104
l. Read 1ª *June* 25, 114
  Read 2ª *June* 28, 388
  Com.; Reported; and Re-com. *June* 29, 560
  Reported *July* 3 [26] 779
  Amendts. reported *July* 5, 940
  Read 3ª, and passed *July* 6, 1062
  Royal Assent *July* 20
  [57° & 58° Vic. c. 21]

Blue Books—Printing, &c.
  References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 18 [28] 1573, &c.

Board of Agriculture (see *Agriculture*)

Board of Trade (see *Trade*)

Board of Works—Decoration of Lord Beaconsfield's Statue
  Q. Mr. Cremer; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *April* 20 [23] 980

Board Schools (see under *Education*)

Boards of Conciliation Bill
c. Intro., Sir J. Lubbock; Read 1° *April* 3 [22] 1316
  2R. deferred *June* 11 [25] 889
  [Dropped]

Boards of Conciliation Bill
l. Pres., Earl of Onslow; Read 1ª *June* 15 [25] 1204
  Read 2ª *June* 28 [26] 375
  Com.; Reported, and Re-com. to Standing Com. *July* 23 [27] 655
  Reported *July* 24, 790
  Amendts. reported *July* 26, 998
  Read 3ª, and passed *July* 30, 1221

BODKIN, Mr. M. M., *Roscommon, N.*
  Army Estimates—Promotion from the Ranks [25] 1007, 1009
  Finance Bill, Com. [24] 1225
  Ireland
    Board of Works Loans [25] 302, 1345
    Dispensary Committees [23] 185
    Dublin Law Courts—Press Accommodation [23] 459
    Evictions on Lord Dillon's Estate [23] 1088
    Extra Police in Queen's County [24] 30
    Killarney Union, Financial Condition of [23] 1092
    Knight of Kerry and the Poor Rate [23] 1433
    Labourers' Cottages, Tullamore [24] 767
    Land-Grabbing Denunciations [28] 769
    Lewis Estate—Extra Police Charges [23] 1579
    Magistrates and Public House Licences [26] 131
    Malicious Burning in Galway [27] 1126
    Mixed Trains [24] 1414; [25] 1081
    Monitors [22] 1434; [24] 204; [27] 1018
    Orange Disturbances in County Antrim [23] 851
    Railway Rates at Boyle [28] 762
    Roscommon Union Poor Rates [27] 667
    School Books [22] 1434, 1578; [24] 207; [27] 1017, 1130
    Simson Estate, County Roscommon [24] 206
    Strokestown and Elphin Postal Arrangements [23] 1077
    Taffe, Edward, Case of [22] 1572
  Ladies' Gallery [25] 175
  Law Library, Four Courts (Ireland) Bill, Com. [23] 587
  Mail Contracts—Shipping Companies and the Fair Contract Clause [24] 1275
  Supply—Chief Secretary's Office [25] 1566
  Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [27] 618; Con. [28] 162, 169, 298

Boiler Explosions in London
  Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Burt *May* 29 [24] 1534

BOLITHO, Mr. T. B., *Cornwall, St. Ives*
Infectious Diseases (Notification) Bill, Intro. [24] 140
Truro and Newquay Junction Railway Bill, Con. [24] 1133

BOLTON, Mr. T. H., *St. Pancras, N.*
Army Estimates—Volunteers [24] 910
Business of the House, Res. [22] 1657
Chimney Sweepers Bill, Con. [25] 990
Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, 2R. [27] 892, 897, 902, 905
Finance Bill, Com., *cl.* 1 [24] 1224, 1225; *cl.* 2 [25] 468, 473, 474, 524, 533, 534, 622, 623, 624, 627, 629, 631; *cl.* 3, 729, 733, 743; *cl.* 5, 934, 936, 937, 946, 963, 969, 973, 975; *cl.* 6, 1282, 1286, 1309; *cl.* 7 [25] 1397, 1400, 1409, 1412, 1415, 1416, 1499, 1506; *cl.* 9, 1520, 1523, 1524, 1525, 1530, 1531; *cl.* 10, 1668; *cl.* 18 [26] 252; Con., 1328, 1362, 1363, 1492; 3R. [27] 240
Music and Dancing Licences (Middlesex) Bill, Com. [24] 1121, 1124
Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Com. [24] 1121; Con., 1659, 1664, 1669, 1671, 1675
Public Buildings (London) Bill, Com. [24] 1126
Shop Hours Act (1892) Amendment Bill, Com. [24] 1128, 1129, 1130
Ways and Means — Financial Statement, Com. [23] 1292

BONSOR, Mr. H. C. O., *Surrey, Wimbledon*
Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 498, 556, 557, 558, 621; Com., *cl.* 23 [26] 280, 282, 296, 299; *cl.* 25, 363; *cl.* 27, 372, 765, 766
Closure of the Spirit Duty Clause [26] 459

Borough Funds Act (1872) Amendment Bill
c. Intro., Sir A. Rollit; Read 1° *July* 25 [27] 952

Borstal Convict Prison, Governor of
Q. Viscount Cranborne; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 21 [29] 157

BORTHWICK, Sir A., *Kensington, S.*
Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, Com., [28] 95
South Kensington Museum—Antique Casts [24] 762

BOSCAWEN, Mr. A. S. T. GRIFFITH-, *Kent, Tunbridge*
Bamley-in-the-Willows National School [27] 656
Cemetery Consecration in Cardiganshire [27] 1251

[*cont.*

BOSCAWEN, Mr. A. S. T. GRIFFITH- —*cont.*
Chief Constable of Cardiganshire and Mr. Lewis [28] 27
Established Church (Wales) Bill—Motion for Leave [23] 1524, 1527
Evening Schools Code [24] 373
Finance Bill, Com. [25] 1366, 1367; [26] 500
Hever Schools [27] 656; [28] 772
Mining Royalties, Rents and Wayleaves, Res. [22] 1536
Newcastle - Emlyn County Court Bailiff, Assault on [23] 1076
Post Office Envelopes [27] 1252
Rhuddlan School, St. Asaph [27] 1252
Supply—Public Education [29] 197, 199, 200, 201
Tithe Dispute in Wales [22] 1245; [24] 1392
Volunteer Officers' Military Instruction [22] 904
Welsh Cathedrals [25] 561, 803; [26] 442, 443

Bottles, Importation of (see under ***Trade, Board of***)

BOULNOIS, Mr. E., *Marylebone, E.*
Advertisement Regulation Bill, Intro. [23] 111
Cab Strike [24] 1180; [25] 559
Dockyards, Foreign Officers' Visits to [23] 1450
East London Water Bill, 2R. [22] 1390
Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, 2R. [27] 829, 832, 835
London County Council (General Powers) Bill, Con. [24] 1511
London County Council (Tower Bridge Southern Approach) Bill, Con. [25] 5
Police (Metropolis) Bill, 2R. [22] 1379
Post Office Contracts—Prison-Made Goods [24] 1406
Southwark and Vauxhall Water Bill, 2R. [23] 113

BOUSFIELD, Mr. W. R., *Hackney, N.*
Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, Com. [28] 180, 184, 186, 205
Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 850; Com., *cl.* 1 [25] 103, 104; *cl.* 2, 539, 612; *cl.* 3, 713, 745; *cl.* 5, 944, 945, 946, 948; *cl.* 6, 1281, 1296; *cl.* 17 [26] 152, 158, 162, 163; *cl.* 29, 475, 476; Con., 1517, 1537, 1633; Con. [27] 75, 94, 98
Hackney Union Vaccination Officer [25] 30
Old Age Provident Pensions Bill, 2R. [22] 1372
Supply—Dangerous Trades [22] 361

BOWLES, Captain H. F., *Middlesex, Enfield*
Army Estimates
  Enfield Factory [26] 996, 997
  Militia [26] 845
  Waltham Abbey Powder Factory Explosions—Pensions [27] 329

[*cont.*

BOWLES, Captain H. F.—*cont.*
- Cab Strike [24] 1310
- Enfield and Sparkbrook Factories [23] 457, 1218
- Enfield Lock Building Works [24] 775
- Maxim Guns [24] 806
- Quartermasters' Appointments [25] 287
- Waltham Abbey Explosions [24] 805, 1447

BOWLES, Mr. T. G., *Lynn Regis*
- Agriculture, Journal for [27] 379
- Appropriations in Aid [22] 152, 307
- Army (Annual) Bill [22] 854, 855, 869 ; 1R., 851 ; 2R., 895 ; Com. [23] 556, 559, 566, 572, 575, 577, 578
- Army Estimates
  - Clothing [26] 971, 972
  - Colonel M'Clintock [27] 316
  - Drawing Pensions at Post Offices [27] 324
  - Duke of Cambridge [27] 303, 306
  - Medical Department [26] 828, 830
  - Militia [26] 867
  - Rifle Ranges, &c. [26] 1094
  - Transport [26] 915
  - Yeomanry [26] 882
- Atlantic, Derelicts in [22] 1101
- Behring Sea Award Act [23] 1450
- Behring Sea Award Bill [22] 1458 ; 2R., 1476, 1480 ; Com., 1677, 1679, 1680, 1681, 1683, 1685
  - Canada [23] 212, 213, 217, 460
- Business of the House [22] 272, 1281, 1670, 1671 ; [25] 82 ; [26] 960 ; [28] 570
  - Introduction of and Ballotting for Bills [22] 162
- Civil Service Sick Leave [23] 980
- Commercial Treaties [27] 1239
- Crimean and Indian Mutiny Veterans—Peter Corcoran [23] 214, 215
- Cycles, Registration of [27] 1263
- Cycling Regulations [27] 796
- Danube, Mouths of [22] 341
- Death Duties [24] 49, 50, 51, 240, 477, 797, 1003 ; [25] 426, 810, 924, 927 ; [26] 575, 1195, 1307
- Declaration of Paris [22] 345
- Deed Stamping [23] 1216
- Dover Pier Dues [22] 578
- Factory Legislation—Docks and Quays [25] 1410
- Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 648, 829, 830, 835, 836 ; Order for Com., 1200 ; Com., *cl.* 1, 1240, 1248, 1250, 1467, 1468, 1469, 1472, 1473, 1490, 1547 ; [25] 129, 330, 332, 333 ; *cl.* 2, 437, 438, 445, 446, 453, 457, 458, 487, 488, 503, 507, 523, 528, 627 ; *cl.* 3, 647, 648, 649, 710, 718, 719 ; *cl.* 4, 748, 750, 754, 758, 855, 862, 868, 876, 877, 878 ; *cl.* 5, 931, 936, 937, 954, 955, 964, 987, 1104, 1109, 1111, 1113, 1116, 1121, 1136, 1139, 1160 ; *cl.* 6 [25] 1233, 1237, 1238, 1242, 1279, 1294, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1312, 1358, 1359, 1379, 1387, 1388, 1395 ; *cl.* 7, 1396, 1397, 1399, 1407, 1410, 1416, 1420, 1421, 1425, 1428, 1476, 1477, 1481, 1486, 1491, 1502, 1508; *cl.* 9, 1518, 1524, 1526, 1527, 1532, 1537, 1540 ; *cl.* 10 [25] 1651, 1655, 1656, 1663, 1664, 1674, 1678, 1679 ; *cl.* 13, 1693, 1696, 1700 ; *cl.* 14 [26] 24, 25, 46, 48, 51, 52, 55 ; *cl.* 15, 59, 62 ; *cl.* 17, 146, 149, 151, 154, 157, 159, 172, 183 ; *cl.* 18, 199, 200 ; *cl.* 29, 487 ; *New cls.*, 628, 632, 633, 639, 643, 644, 647, 652, 711, 712, 713, 715, 718, 719, 720 ; Con. [26] 1205, 1206, 1327, 1339, 1371, 1385, 1396, 1397, 1401, 1406, 1413, 1415, 1420, 1426, 1495, 1498, 1507, 1510, 1515, 1518, 1519, 1523, 1524, 1529, 1530, 1531, 1545, 1583, 1585, 1594, 1605, 1611, 1644, 1645, 1646, 1653, 1654 ; [27] 37, 38, 43, 50, 53, 61, 62, 66, 73, 81, 84 ; 3R., 189, 193
- Fishing Boat Lights [24] 203
- Foreign Goods (Mark of Origin) Bill, 2R. [24] 195
- Franco-Siamese Question—Papers, &c. [24] 794 ; [27] 167 ; [28] 569
- Government Newspaper Publications—"Labour Gazette," &c. [23] 977 ; [27] 795, 805
- House of Lords Officials [23] 1223
- Jamaica Dockyard [24] 44
- Law Officers of the Crown, Res. [22] 954
- Licence Fees—Home Office [22] 1445
- Light Dues, Committee on [28] 560
- Marksmen's Pay, &c. [28] 467
- Mercantile Marine Apprentices [25] 914
- Mercantile Marine Expenditure [22] 139
- Merchant Shipping Bill, 2R. [23] 107
- Merchant Shipping (Life-Saving Appliances) Act—Board of Trade Rules [22] 1252
- Navy
  - Bilge Keels for British Ships [26] 790
  - British Naval Boats made in Germany [24] 41, 226
  - Coastguard Stations—Life-Saving Apparatus [22] 307
  - Cruisers, Ineffective [25] 15
  - Gunners' Pay [27] 1246
  - H.M.S. "Crescent" [22] 443
  - Manœuvres, Drill in [22] 687
  - Oil Fuel [22] 140, 688
  - Public Press Regulations [23] 213, 214
  - Rations, Condemned [22] 689
  - Reserves [22] 671, 673
  - Shipbuilding Contract Work [22] 306
  - Tenders [26] 574
- North Sea Fisheries [24] 374
- Ottawa Trade Conference [26] 1573
- Period of Qualification and Elections Bill—Point of Order [24] 244
- Pluralists in the Public Service [24] 799
- Private Moorings in Public Roadsteads [28] 468
- Privilege—Lord Rosebery's Speech at Edinburgh, Res. [22] 605
- Quarantine [22] 955, 957
- Sombrero Island Lights [27] 1261
- Sporting Telegrams for Newspapers [28] 465
- Stationery Office Publications, Return [23] 855
- Steam Trawlers and the Rule of the Road at Sea [25] 564

Bowles, Mr. T. G.—*cont.*
Supply
Appropriations in Aid [22] 376
Art and Science Buildings [22] 1068, 1076
Burlington House [24] 961, 962, 970, 971, 972, 973
Cholera Precautions [22] 365, 366
Coldbath Fields Post Office [24] 949, 951
County Courts [22] 373, 374
Diplomatic and Consular Buildings [22] 1086, 1089, 1090, 1091
Diplomatic and Consular Services [22] 834
Dockyard Employés and District and Parish Councils [27] 1302
Extension of Admiralty Buildings [22] 984
House of Commons Offices, Commission on [22] 357
Houses of Parliament [22] 980
Law Charges [22] 367, 370
Metropolitan Police Courts [22] 997
Petitions to the House of Commons [22] 353
Pluralists in the Public Service [22] 353, 355, 795
Post Office Buildings [24] 932
Rating of Government Property [27] 1285
Royal Palaces [22] 967, 969, 970
Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens [22] 971, 975, 976
Vote on Account [22] 349, 805
Tunis-Tripoli Frontier [25] 1642
Waltham Abbey Powder Factory Explosions [24] 606
Ways and Means
Financial Statement, Com. [23] 524, 525, 1119, 1120, 1121
Res. to authorise Clause 15 of the Finance Bill, Com. [25] 1650

Boxing at Aberdare (see under Wales)

Boycotting (see under Ireland)

Bradford Charitable Endowments
Return ordered *Aug* 10 [28] 652

Brassey, Lord
Boards of Conciliation Bill, 2R. [26] 384
Indian Opium Commission [28] 2

Brazil
Alleged Outrage on a British Subject, Q. Admiral Field; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 28 [26] 428
Arrests at Rio, Q. Mr. Paul; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 11 [25] 806
Explosion—Loss of British Officers—Compensation, Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Sir E. Grey *Mar* 22 [22] 867; Q. Mr. W. Whitelaw; A. Mr. E. Robertson *April* 12 [23] 221; Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Sir E. Grey *July* 30 [27] 1271
Surrender of Admiral de Gama, Qs. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, Colonel H. Vincent, Sir A. Rollit, Mr. Hanbury; As. Sir E. Grey *Mar* 15 [22] 331

Brentwood School Scandal
(See under *Local Government Board*)

Bridgeman, Colonel Hon. F. C., *Bolton*
Finance Bill, Com. [26] 585
Supply—Museums [29] 217
Volunteers—Forage Allowances [26] 19

Bristol Tramways Bill
c. As amended, Con. *July* 26 [27] 998

British Africa Companies (see under Africa)

British Columbia
Bank of, Copy pres. *Mar* 12 [22] 127
Sealers, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. Buxton *April* 12 [23] 219; Qs. Sir G. Baden-Powell, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Mr. Buxton *April* 16, 460

British Honduras
Currency Question, Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Mr. Buxton *May* 1 [24] 45; *May* 25, 1267

British Museum
Indian Official Publications, Q. Mr. H. Plunkett; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 10 [23] 15
References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Mar* 21 [22] 831; *Mar* 30, 1065

British Museum (Purchase of Land)
Res. con. in Com. *July* 12 [26] 1548
Reported *July* 13, 1656

British Museum (Purchase of Land) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Mellor; Read 1° *July* 13 [26] 1656
Read 2° *July* 17 [27] 273
Con. in Com. *July* 19, 486
Read 3°, and passed *July* 20, 644
l. Read 1ª *July* 23, 656
Read 2ª *July* 31, 1366
Com.; Reported, &c. *Aug* 2, 1558
Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 3 [28] 5
Royal Assent *Aug* 17
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 34]

Broad, Mr. H. E., *Derbyshire, S.*
School Board Rates and the Extra Grant [25] 567

Brodrick, Hon. W. St. John, *Surrey, Guildford*
Army and Navy Defensive Preparations, Res. [22] 501
Army (Annual) Bill [22] 906; Com. [23] 560, 569, 583

[*cont.*

Brodrick, Hon. W. St. John—*cont.*
- Army Estimates
  - Ammunition [26] 1025
  - Clothing [26] 980, 984, 995
  - Colonel M'Clintock [26] 1034; [27] 315
  - Crimean and Indian Mutiny Veterans [27] 324
  - Discussion on [25] 1037
  - Forage [22] 431
  - Horses [26] 914
  - Land Forces [22] 537
  - Medical Service [26] 831
  - Militia [26] 847, 856, 857, 864
  - Ordnance Factories [22] 555
  - Pensions, &c. [27] 318, 321
  - Rifle Ranges [25] 1006; [26] 1098
  - Volunteers [26] 909
  - Warlike and other Stores [26] 1005, 1006
  - War Office, Salaries, &c. [27] 294, 301, 302, 306
  - Yeomanry [26] 883
- Barracks, Expenditure on [23] 1448
- Death Duties [23] 1451, 1452; [24] 51
- Employment of Reserve Soldiers [22] 516; [25] 1018
- Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 568, 572; Com., 1596; *cl.* 1 [25] 321; *cl.* 2, 471, 475, 616; *cl.* 3, 705; *cl.* 4, 878; *cl.* 5, 988, 1106, 1110, 1114, 1123; *cl.* 6, 1381; *cl.* 7, 1399; *cl.* 14 [26] 32, 40; *cl.* 15, 56, 59, 60; *cl.* 17, 157, 167, 170, 173, 174; *New cls.*, 744, 745; Con., 1500, 1527, 1634; [27] 87, 88, 89, 90
- India—Reported Mutiny [24] 811
- Irish Land Acts—Select Com. [23] 108, 110
- Land Tenure (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [23] 138, 140, 141, 142, 152, 154
- Militia and the Magazine Rifle [25] 1081
- Peers Disabilities Removal Bill, Intro. [22] 459
- Promotion in the Army [25] 40
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Com. [27] 1048, 1049, 1078, 1177; 3R. [28] 269, 273, 274, 275, 336
- Waltham Abbey Powder Factory Explosions, Res. [24] 1445, 1446
- Ways and Means — Financial Statement, Com. [23] 516, 1109, 1114

Brookfield, Colonel A. M., *Sussex, Rye*
- Barrack Construction [26] 448
- Birr Barrack Scandal [27] 801
- Cavalry Horses [26] 787, 950
- Cavalry Regiments, Strength of [26] 20
- Finance Bill, Com. [26] 353
- Hop Substitutes Bill, Res. [22] 999
- Uniforms Bill, 2R. [24] 700

Brunner, Mr. J. T., *Cheshire, Northwich*
- Canal Tolls and Charges Provisional Order (No. 7) Bill, Con. [28] 432, 434, 436
- Eight Hours Movement [24] 482
- Factories, Sunday Labour in [24] 1158
- Finance Bill, Com. [25] 648, 1161
- German Prison-Made Goods [22] 1103

[*cont.*

Brunner, Mr. J. T.—*cont.*
- Income Tax Valuation [26] 133
- Magistrates' Appointment Fees [24] 1417
- Parish Council Register [24] 1162
- Thames Conservancy Bill, Instr. to Com. [24] 1380; Con. [26] 395

Brussels Act
- Qs. Mr. J. W. Lowther; As. Sir E. Grey *June* 11 [25] 813; *Aug* 3 [28] 18

Bryant and May's Strike—Prosecution of Amelia Gifford (see under *Law, &c.*)

BRYCE, Right Hon. J., *Aberdeen, S.*

(*As Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster*)
- Allotments [24] 473
- Established Church (Wales) Bill, Motion for Leave [23] 1769, 1771, 1774, 1775
- Magistrates [22] 435; [24] 1281

(*As President of the Board of Trade*)
- Access to Mountains (Scotland) Bill, Intro. [27] 274
- Advertisements, Pictorial, Importation of [26] 795; [27] 548
- Alien Immigration [29] 151
- Balfour Companies [25] 19; [29] 381
- Bankruptcy Administration in Sussex—Case of Mr. Warren [25] 168, 1635
- Barry Dock and Railway Act, 1888. Amendment Bill [26] 562
- Billingsgate Tolls [27] 1134; [28] 1387
- "Board of Trade Journal" [28] 123
- Bristol Tramways Bill, Con. [27] 1000
- Bunker Coals [28] 1385
- Business of the House [26] 320, 578
- Canal Tolls and Charges Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill, Con. [27] 1372
- Canal Tolls and Charges Provisional Order (No. 7) Bill, Con. [28] 429, 435
- Chisels, Fraudulently-Marked [28] 1222; [29] 346, 421
- Colonies, British Trade with [29] 355
- Companies (Winding-up) Act [25] 572
- Conciliation Bills [27] 381
- Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill, 2R. [26] 771, 874, 1654
- Crimping, Mitigating [26] 220, 1301
- Dead British Sailors on the French Coast [25] 1467
- Derelicts [25] 445; [27] 174, 175, 551, 668, 1568; [29] 378, 417
- Emigrants on German Steamers [25] 909
- Emigrants on the "Havel" [25] 910
- Essex Fisheries and American Cattle Ships [26] 238
- Explosives—Shipping of at Plymouth [26] 1569
- Finance Bill, Com. [26] 631

[*cont.*

BRYCE, Right Hon. J.—*cont.*

- Fishery Committees—Payment of Fishermen [25] 165 ; [26] 238
- Foreign-Made Goods, Imports of [25] 565, 687
- Foreign Prison-Made Goods [26] 569 ; [27] 1240
- German Prison-Made Goods [26] 9 ; [28] 1222 ; [29] 391
- Great Northern Railway Signalmen [28] 460
- Great Western and Midland Railway Companies Bill, [28] 480 ; 2R. [27] 544, 545
- Great Western Railway (No. 1) Bill, Instr. to Com. [25] 1067
- Grimsby Fisher Lads [28] 465
- International Code Book [29] 19
- Ireland
  - Belfast and County Down Level Crossing [28] 770
  - Berehaven Harbour [26] 1063
  - Car Service at Dundalk Railway Station [25] 923
  - Cattle Traffic [26] 446 ; [27] 798 ; [29] 18
  - Conveyance of Harvesters [26] 447
  - Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway [26] 794
  - Lights Board Contracts and Trade Union Wages [26] 788 ; [27] 370, 1404, 1583
  - Mixed Trains [25] 1080 ; [26] 8
  - Railway Consignment Notes [28] 446
  - Railway Rates [28] 446, 762
  - Strabane-Lifford Road [25] 13
  - Waterford and Limerick Railway [26] 1568
- Joint Stock Companies' Register Bill, 2R. [25] 1434
- Labour Correspondents in North Wales [29] 169
- Liberator Building Society [29] 381
- Life-Saving Apparatus [28] 238
- Light Dues, Committee on [28] 560, 991
- Lighthouses, Electrical Communication with [25] 587
- Lightships, Electrical Communication with [28] 23
- Loss of Life and Property—Official Inquiries [25] 38
- Mercantile Marine Apprentices [25] 914
- Mercantile Marine—Labour Commission Report [29] 169
- Merchant Shipping Acts Consolidation Bill [26] 1300
- Merchant Shipping Bill, Re-com. [27] 950, 1361, 1362 ; [28] 114, 115, 366
- Mussel Scalps (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [26] 875
- Patents—New Rules [29] 382
- Pilotage Bill, 2R. [25] 1725
- Private Moorings in Public Roadsteads [28] 469
- Provident Association of London [27] 368
- Queenstown — Passengers from Foreign Steamers [27] 165
- Railway and Canal Traffic Act—Conciliation Clause [26] 1562

[*cont.*

BRYCE, Right Hon. J.—*cont.*

- Railway and Canal Traffic Bill, Qs. [27] 1019, 1585 ; 2R. [25] 1607 ; [26] 100 ; Com. [28] 637, 641, 645, 646, 793, 797, 798, 799 ; Con., 1075
- Railways
  - Accidents, Inquiry [27] 17
  - Advertisements in Stations [25] 1206
  - Alleged Nuisance at Newington [26] 679
  - Board of Trade Department Officials [26] 244
  - Cattle Traffic—Through Rates [28] 134
  - "Cobb *v.* the Great Western Company" [25] 907
  - "Contracting Out" [28] 136
  - Ely Valley [25] 671
  - Hours of Labour [26] 427 ; [27] 170
  - Level Crossing Fatality at Camborne [25] 28
  - Market Produce Traffic on the Great Eastern Railway [29] 354
  - Preference to Traders [27] 170
  - Rates [25] 908 ; [28] 240
  - Scotch and Irish Questions (see under sub-headings Scotland and Ireland)
  - Servants Fatal Accidents, Return [25] 297
  - Sight Tests for Servants [25] 20
  - Signalmen's Working Hours [25] 1619 ; [28] 440, 474
  - Uffington Station Accident [26] 1304
  - Underground—Foul Air [25] 304, 899 ; [26] 22, 430, 689
  - Underground—Platforms [25] 401
  - Workmen's Tickets [26] 689 ; [28] 439
  - Workmen's Trains [25] 289 ; [29] 400
- Ramsgate Lifeboat [25] 682
- Scotland
  - Cattle Trucks on the Highland Railway [28] 1242
  - Clyde Lighthouse Trustees [28] 470
  - Coal Strike [27] 1016 ; [29] 420
  - Dunphail Railway Accident [25] 416, 811
  - Fort William Foreshores [26] 1188
  - Fort William Railway Station [27] 1253
  - Forth at Cruickness — Pollution [27] 1570
  - Highland Railways and Automatic Brake [26] 116 ; [28] 552
  - Hours of Labour on Railways [25] 417, 594 ; [27] 792
  - May Island Navigation Difficulties [25] 624
  - Railway Rates [26] 947
  - Trawling [25] 1221
- Sea Fisheries Report [26] 956
- Sea Fisheries (Shell Fish) Bill ; Intro. [25] 760 ; 2R. 1433 ; [26] 318
  - Blocking [25] 1642
- Secondary Education Commission [25] 292
- Ships' Provisions [29] 348
- "Sobriety," Loss of the [25] 37
- Spirits, Imported [27] 793
- Start Point Fog Horn [27] 26
- Steam Trawlers and the Rule of the Road at Sea [25] 564

[*cont.*

BRYCE, Right Hon. J.—*cont.*
  Supply
    "Board of Trade Journal" [28] 1542
    Colleges and Universities [29] 222, 223, 225, 226
    Criccieth Beach [28] 1539
    Highland Railways [28] 1532
    Holyhead Harbour Master [28] 1393
    Lifeboats [28] 1532, 1538
    Lighthouses [28] 1543, 1544, 1545
    Railway Companies and the Board of Trade [28] 1525, 1534
    Uganda [25] 266
  Thames and Severn Canal [28] 980
  Thames Conservancy Bill, Con. [26] 394, 397, 1288, 1461
  Tower Bridge, Return [27] 805; [29] 176
  Training Boys for Sea [27] 1000
  Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill, Con. [27] 1378
  Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill, Con. [27] 1383; [28] 122
  Wales—Criccieth Beach [28] 1254, 1539

BUCHANAN, Mr. T. R., *Aberdeenshire, E.*
  Business of the House—Scottish Legislation [22] 326
  Crofters' Act (1886). Res. [23] 1647
  East India Revenue Accounts [28] 20, 768; Com., 1318, 1320, 1324
  Fishery Board (Scotland) Extension of Powers Bill, Intro. [23] 811; 2R. [24] 197
  Indian Tariff Bill [22] 440
  Inebriates Retreat at Walsall [27] 1256
  Light on Flannan Islands [24] 484
  Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Con. [28] 498, 591, 592; Lords Amendts. [29] 305
  Meat, Foreign [22] 141, 694
  Mercantile Marine—Labour Commission Report [29] 169
  Postmasters—Private Agencies [24] 601
  Russia—British Herrings [22] 1576
  Supply
    Peterhead Harbour [29] 1397
    Scotch Fishery Board [29] 53
  Trawling [22] 145; [29] 24
  Uganda and British Central Africa Vote [29] 27

BUCKNILL, Mr. T. T., *Surrey, Epsom*
  Burgh Heath Telegraphic Communication [22] 1578
  Established Church (Wales) Bill, Motion for Leave [23] 1509, 1510, 1511
  Merchant Shipping Bill, Re-com. [27] 1362; [28] 364, 365
  Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [27] 599, 601; Com, 1079, 1080, 1206
  Voluntary Schools Fee Grant [27] 1560

Budget (see under *Ways and Means*)

Building Bye-Laws in the Metropolis
  Q. Mr. Howell; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 2 [22] 1107; Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 30 [27] 1256; Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 10 [28] 553

Building Societies
  Acts, Q. Mr. G. Balfour; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 9 [22] 1595
  Income Tax, Q. Mr. Leon; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 31 [25] 34
  Returns, Q. Mr. Jackson; A. Mr. G. Russell *Aug* 2 [27] 1582

Building Societies Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Banbury; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 452
  Withdrawn *April* 26 [23] 1549

Building Societies (No. 2) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. H. Gladstone; Read 1° *April* 12 [23] 307
  Read 2° *April* 24, 1325
  Reported *May* 24 [24] 1255
  As amended, Con.; deferred *June* 5 [25] 492; *Aug* 2 [27] 1605; *Aug* 3 [28] 112
  Con.; Debate adjourned *Aug* 6 [28] 227
  Con.; Read 3°, and passed *Aug* 8, 403
l. Read 1ª *Aug* 13, 756
  Read 2ª *Aug* 16, 1153
  Com.; Reported *Aug* 17, 1370
c. Lords Amendts. con. and agreed to *Aug* 22 [29] 284
l. Amendts. reported *Aug* 20, 7
  Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 21, 149
  Royal Assent *Aug* 25
  [57° & 58° Vic. c. 47]

Building Societies (No. 2) Bill
  Q. Mr. Bill; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *June* 15 [25] 1226; Q. Mr. Jackson; A. Mr. T. E. Ellis *July* 18 [27] 330

Building Societies (No. 3) Bill
c. Intro., Sir J. Lubbock; Read 1° *May* 1 [24] 140
  2R. deferred *May* 3, 331
  Read 2° *May* 7, 574
  Reported *May* 24, 1255
  [Dropped]

BURDETT-COUTTS, Mr. W. L. A. B., *Westminster*
  Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, 2R., [27] 918; Con. [28] 80, 200

Burgh Police (Scotland) Act (1892) Amendment Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Dunn; Read 1° *May* 29 [24] 1635
  Read 2° *June* 5 [25] 493
  Con. in Com.; Reported; Read 3° *June* 11, 891

[*cont.*

Burgh Police (Scotland) Act (1892) Amendment Bill—cont.
l. Read 1ª *June* 12, 897
Read 2ª *June* 18, 1335
Com.; Reported, and Re-com. to Standing Com. *June* 28 [26] 390
Reported *July* 3, 779
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 5, 942
Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 18]

BURGHLEY, Right Hon. Lord, *Northampton, N.*
Army Estimates—Militia [26] 834
Finance Bill, Com. [25] 1181; [26] 626

Burial Acts
Q. Mr. G. Allsopp; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 5 [22] 1450

Burial Boards
Cemetery Consecration in Cardiganshire, Q. Mr. Griffith-Boscawen; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 30 [27] 1251
Fees, Qs. Mr. C. Williams; As. Mr. Asquith *July* 31 [27] 1387; *Aug* 14 [28] 982
Ipswich, Qs. Mr. Everett, Mr. J. E. Ellis; As. Mr. Asquith *April* 10 [23] 14
Local Government Act, Q. Mr. C. Williams; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 26 [23] 1442

Burial Grounds, Welsh
Q. Mr. S. Leighton; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 12 [26] 1463

Burials Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Carvell Williams; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 453
Withdrawn *Aug* 16 [28] 1353

Burlington House
References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *May* 21 [24] 961, &c.
Royal Academy Tenancy, Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *May* 24 [24] 1169

BURNIE, Mr. R. J. D., *Swansea, Town*
Cornwall Railway, Hours of Labour on [24] 483
Culliford, Emily—Case of [28] 1000
Destitute East Indians at Swansea [25] 927
Mining Royalties, Rents and Wayleaves, Res. [22] 1531
Naval Pension Stoppages [25] 41
Railway and Canal Traffic Bill, Com. [28] 638, 796

BURNS, Mr. John, *Battersea*
Army Pensions, Payment of [22] 1452; [23] 13
Bakehouses in London [22] 1508
Clerks at Woolwich [26] 790
East London Water Bill, 2R. [22] 1416
Evening Continuation School Code, Res. [24] 1499
Horses, Led [23] 625
Journeymen Bakers' Hours of Labour [29] 371
Lead Poisoning—Death at Greenwich Workhouse [27] 1023
Naval Dockyards—Labour and Wages, Res. [22] 631, 634, 647
Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Com. [24] 1096, 1103, 1109, 1116; [28] 879, 881
Railway Platelayers, Accidents to [23] 629, 630
St. James's Park [27] 360
Shop Hours Act (1892) Amendment Bill, Com. [24] 1127

Supply
  Cab Strike [24] 1305, 1306
  Coldbath Fields Money Order Office [24] 952, 953
  Delay in Bringing on the Estimates [28] 1589
  Factory Inspectors [28] 1435
  Government Printing — Trades Union Wages, &c. [28] 1572
  Government Publications [28] 1542
  Home Office Clerks [28] 1439
  King Street, Westminster [24] 966
  Metalliferous Mines Inspector [27] 1459, 1460
  Metropolitan Police Boots [28] 1596
  National Gallery, Ireland [29] 75
  Post Office Buildings [24] 940
  Prison Warders [28] 1597
  Railway Hours of Labour [28] 1524
  Royal Academy [24] 972
  Science and Art Department [22] 1074, 1081

West Ham Town Clerkships [27] 361

BURT, MR. T. (Secretary to the Board of Trade), *Morpeth*
Atlantic Liners, Alleged Racing by [24] 1398
"Bannockburn"—Alleged Manslaughter of a Seaman [23] 1425
Boiler Explosions in London [24] 1534
Bottles, Foreign—Importation of [24] 1272, 1414
Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill, 2R. [23] 1323
"Countess of Aberdeen," Loss of the [23] 1424
Destruction of Wrecks [23] 1213
Directors, Public Examination of [24] 913
Dock Labourers, Unemployed [23] 1408
Essex Fishing Grounds—Removal of Cultch [24] 1181
"Highbury," Loss of the [24] 1001

[*cont.*

BURT, Mr. T.—*cont.*
- Ireland
  - Drumshanbo Stationmaster [23] 1441
  - Mixed Trains [24] 1415
  - Railway Rates—Bacon and Pork [24] 1406
  - Soldiers on Irish Mail Boats [23] 1436
- Lighthouse Illuminants [24] 1190
- Manning of Ships Committee [24] 1166, 1395
- Marine Inquiries by the Board of Trade [23] 1416
- Merchandise Marks (Cutlery) Bill [26] 1481
- Merchandise Marks (Files) Bill, 2R. [24] 198
- Notice of Accidents Bill, Intro. [22] 1504
- Patent Office Fees [23] 1427
- "Penarth," Loss of the [24] 1000
- Railway and Canal Traffic Bill [24] 1273; 2R. [23] 1202
- Railway Rates and Charges Provisional Order (Easingwold Railway, &c.) Bill, 2R. [24] 1258
- Railways
  - Accidents—Board of Trade Inquiries [24] 1419
  - Bettisfield Collision [23] 1443
  - Melton Level Crossing [24] 997
  - Platelayers, Accidents to [23] 1441
  - Underground Railway—Foul Air [24] 1534
  - Workmen's Tickets [24] 1288
- Scotland
  - Dunphail Railway Accident [24] 1174
  - Flannan Islands Lighthouse [24] 1390
  - Steamboats, Insanitary Condition of [24] 1418
- "Sobriety" Fatality [24] 1159
- Steam Trawlers (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [24] 747
- Trade Unions and Wage-Earners [24] 1410

BURY, Viscount, *Birkenhead*
- Volunteers and the Civil Service [25] 33

Business of the House (see under *Parliament*)

BUTCHER, Mr. J. G., *York*
- Finance Bill, Com., *cl.* 1 [24] 1592; [25] 110; *cl.* 2, 385, 450, 468, 469, 507, 509, 534, 535, 621, 627; *cl.* 3, 662, 720, 733; *cl.* 4, 746, 750, 756, 855, 859, 864, 867, 872, 873; *cl.* 5, 881, 965, 982; *cl.* 6, 1246; *cl.* 7 [25] 1418, 1419, 1420, 1500, 1507, 1509; *cl.* 9, 1528, 1541; *cl.* 10, 1670, 1679, 1693; *cl.* 15 [26] 61; *cl.* 17, 155, 175; *cl.* 27, 371; *New cls.*, 629, 637, 750, 751; Con., 1267, 1268, 1272, 1329, 1332, 1366, 1381, 1388, 1394, 1400, 1401, 1425, 1429, 1433, 1508, 1523, 1532, 1534, 1546, 1593, 1615, 1616, 1620, 1623, 1625, 1635, 1645; [27] 34, 42, 46, 54, 80, 98
- Licence Transfers in Ireland—Case of Mr. Deeney [23] 1104
- Metropolitan Countermen and Telegraph Clerks [22] 1569; [26] 436
- Telegraph Clerks' Examination [26] 946
- Trade Disputes (Arbitration) Bill, Intro. [22] 458
- Ways and Means—Financial Statement [23] 1318

Bute Docks, Cardiff, Bill
- *c.* Read 2° *June* 13 [25] 993

BUTE, Marquess of
- Medical Degrees at St. Andrews University, Petition [25] 273

BUXTON, MR. S. C. (Under Secretary of State for the Colonies), *Tower Hamlets, Poplar*
- Africa
  - Anglo-German Railway in South-West Africa [25] 1473
  - Bechuanaland [22] 317; [23] 186, 1097; [25] 582; [29] 401
  - British Goods in South Africa—Cape Customs Duties, &c. [26] 1479; [27] 811
  - British South Africa Company [28] 450; [29] 385
  - Mashonaland—Fort Victoria Incident [23] 625; [28] 1387
  - Matabeleland—War with Lobengula, &c. [22] 147; [23] 622, 626, 627; [24] 764, 1411; [25] 408, 422
  - N'Gamiland Concession [25] 582, 1458
  - Natal Franchise Laws [29] 371
  - Pondoland, Annexation of [22] 689, 1438, 1577; [24] 591; [25] 1080
  - Sierra Leone—Expedition against the Sofas [22] 144
  - Sir Francis Scott's Expedition [27] 793
  - South African Convention [27] 797
  - Swaziland, Cession of, &c. [22] 147; [23] 863, 1428; [24] 224, 762; [26] 1300, 1477; [27] 668
  - Transvaal [24] 1397; [29] 283
    - British Residents [29] 166
    - Commandeering [24] 1183; [25] 1079, 1637; [26] 17, 128, 241, 449, 451, 570, 685, 686, 1296, 1479; [27] 813; [28] 462, 561
    - Franchise Laws [27] 1574; [28] 166
    - Mining Industry [25] 1630; [26] 125
    - Restriction of Rights of Public Meetings [27] 380, 804, 1020
    - Thrashing the Blacks [22] 684
  - Umtali
    - Arrest of Mr. Taylor [22] 701
    - Queen Chikanga's Consort [22] 562
  - Umtassa's Country Magistrates [22] 700
  - Zululand—Prisoners, &c. [22] 1576
- Auckland University—Case of W. S. Aldis [25] 1634
- Behring Sea Award Bill—Canada, &c. [22] 1457, 1574; [23] 213, 217, 219, 460
- British Honduras Currency Question [24] 45, 1268
- British Trade with the Colonies [24] 607, 1423; [29] 175
  (*See* also under Canada—Ottawa Conference)
- Canada
  - Cattle Importation [22] 308; [26] 9
  - Copyright [24] 238
  - Election Dispute [22] 1454
  - Ottawa Conference [24] 1170, 1423; [25] 689, 923, 1094; [27] 382, 794, 811
  - Tea Duties [23] 184, 455, 839, 1094

[*cont.*

BUXTON, Mr. S. C.—*cont.*
- Ceylon
  - Land Titles [24] 1408
  - Opium Question [23] 1220
- Chino-Japanese Affairs [27] 1145
- Civil Service in the Eastern Colonies [25] 1347
- Cyprus
  - Administration [27] 1260
  - Dr. Grigsby [22] 1247; [24] 225; [27] 1491, 1492
  - Lights on the Coast [28] 442
- Death Duties and the Colonies [26] 1307
- Dominica—Sir R. Hamilton's Report, &c. [25] 1221; [27] 166, 1575; [28] 32
- East London Water Bill, 2R. [22] 1410, 1411, 1412
- Emigrants' Information Office [22] 687
- Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, Com. [28] 379, 380
- Fiji
  - Administration [25] 311
  - Native Outbreak [26] 1560; [27] 795; [28] 261
- Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 645, 647, 648, 649, 650, 685, 686, 829
- Hong Kong
  - Plague [25] 1094; [26] 238, 567
  - Vaccination [24] 600
- Imperial Defence and the Colonies [26] 424, 566, 1465
- Malta Harbour, Sanitary Condition of [27] 168
- Maltese Marriage Laws [23] 1435
- Newfoundland Ministerial Crisis [22] 1581; [23] 468, 1105; [24] 1280
- Newfoundland Treaties [24] 36, 243, 470
- New South Wales—Dibbs Ministry [27] 1407
- New Zealand Fiscal Policy [27] 367
- Prize Courts Bill, 2R. [27] 951, 1105
- Rotten Row, Accidents in [26] 445
- St. Lucia and the McKinley Tariff [23] 1409
- Samoan Islands [23] 1434
- Straits Settlements—Military Contributions [22] 574; [26] 435; [27] 1118; [28] 6 556, 766, 1388
- Supply
  - Bechuanaland, Mashonaland, and Matabeleland [22] 410, 420, 423
  - Bechuanaland, Nyassaland, and Uganda [29] 332
  - British Honduras [28] 1510
  - Cape Government High Commissioner [22] 405
  - Colonial Office—South African Telegrams [22] 363, 365
  - Colonial Service, including South Africa [29] 99, 100
  - Cyprus—Dr. Grigsby [27] 1491, 1492
  - Matabeleland and Mashonaland Settlement [27] 1485
  - Newfoundland [24] 1325
  - Ottawa Conference [28] 1510
  - Subsidised Mail Steamers [24] 1327

BUXTON, Mr. S. C.—*cont.*
- Supply—*cont.*
  - Swaziland [28] 1507, 1508, 1510
  - Transvaal—British Subjects, &c. [27] 1467, 1472, 1474, 1475, 1476, 1477; [28] 1493, 1494, 1500, 1501, 1502
- Tobago [23] 1409; [27] 807
- Trinidad [24] 763; [25] 406
- Venezuela—Diplomatic Relations [22] 1593

BYLES, Mr. W. P., *York, W.R., Shipley*
- Army Estimates—Bradford Barracks [26] 1111
- Bankruptcy Administration in Sussex—Case of Mr. Warren [26] 10
- Building Societies Bill, 2R. [23] 1549
- Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, Con. [25] 492; [27] 1609, 1615, 1618, 1627, 1633, 1634, 1636, 1655, 1659
- Building Societies (No. 3) Bill, 2R. [24] 331
- Business of the House [27] 288
- Chailey Common [28] 258
- Civil List Pension to Professor Rhys-Davids [26] 1487
- Disarmament Policy [23] 980
- Fiji Administration [25] 311
- Finance Bill, Com. [24] 1554; [26] 607, 608, 609; Con., 1272
- House of Commons, Ladies in [25] 1223
- Idle Post Office [22] 697
- Importation of Prison-Made Goods Bill, 2R. [26] 513
- India—Field Hospital [24] 785
- Mashonaland—Fort Victoria Incident [28] 1387
- Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Com. [24] 1105
- Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [23] 689
- Supply
  - Bechuanaland, Mashonaland, and Matabeleland [22] 426, 427
  - Professor Rhys-Davids [27] 1293
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [27] 606, 640
- Uganda [22] 397

BYRNE, Mr. E. W., *Essex, Walthamstow*
- Finance Bill, Com. *cl.* 1 [24] 1227, 1462, 1493, 1564; [25] 314, 332; *cl.* 2, 382, 434, 441, 453, 454, 455, 479, 480, 486, 488, 516, 528, 529, 615, 625, 631, 632; *cl.* 3, 733, 745; *cl.* 4 [25] 749, 864, 866, 867, 873; *cl.* 5, 881, 885, 935, 938, 973, 974, 1117; *cl.* 6, 1236, 1237, 1277, 1367, 1368, 1382, 1395; *cl.* 7, 1420, 1421, 1428, 1503, 1505, 1507; *cl.* 9 [25] 1521, 1526, 1527, 1532, 1542; *cl.* 10, 1660, 1672; *cl.* 12, 1687; *cl.* 15 [26] 61, 62, 64; *cl.* 17, 189; *cl.* 18, 201, 248, 250; *New cls.*, 623, 628, 639, 642, 726; Con. [26] 1204, 1248, 1264, 1337, 1344, 1360, 1372, 1415, 1418, 1421, 1425, 1431, 1490, 1495, 1499, 1501, 1508, 1512, 1525, 1542, 1586, 1588, 1590, 1601, 1613, 1626, 1644, 1646, 1649, 1651, 1652; [27] 80, 86, 96, 102
- Ways and Means — Financial Statement, Com. [23] 542

[*cont.*

Cabinet Ministers' Salaries
- Q. Mr. Heneage; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 24 [24] 1189

Cabs
- *Accidents in the Metropolis*, Q. Sir J. Joicey; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 12 [25] 917
- *Drivers, Prosecutions against*, Qs. Mr. Lough, Mr. Bartley; As. Mr. G. Russell *April* 26 [23] 1419
- *Horses, Treatment of*, Q. Mr. B. Robinson; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 14 [25] 1089
- *Hyde Park, Cabs Driving in*, Qs. Mr. Labouchere, Mr. Dodd; As. Mr. H. Gladstone *June* 15 [25] 1220
- *Licences in the Metropolis*, Q. Mr. E. H. Bayley; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 2 [26] 687
- *Stands in London*, Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Mr. G. Russell *April* 26 [23] 1419
- *Strike*, Q. Mr. Lough; A. Mr. G. Russell *May* 24 [24] 1178; Qs. Mr. Boulnois, Mr. Webster; As. Mr. G. Russell *May* 24, 1180; Qs. Mr. Lough, Mr. Webster; As. Mr. Asquith *May* 25, 1282; Q. Mr. Lough; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 1 [25] 176; Qs. Mr. Boulnois, Mr. C. Fenwick, Mr. E. H. Bayley, Mr. Lough; As. Mr. Asquith *June* 7, 559
  - Debate on the *Vote on Account May* 25 [24] 1298
  - *Prosecution of Boby*, Q. Mr. Lough; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 3 [26] 788

CAINE, Mr. W. S., *Bradford, E.*
- Army Estimates
  - Bradford Barracks [26] 1039, 1111
  - Contagious Diseases among the Troops [25] 1029
- Bradford Barracks [22] 564
- De Freyne Estate [27] 561
- East London Water Bill, 2R. [22] 1409, 1410, 1414
- Finance Bill, Com. [26] 364
- India
  - Baladhun Murder Case [22] 1094; [24] 596; [25] 396
  - Bassantpore Riot Case—Police Inspector Gaitri Prosonno [25] 560
  - Bhogalpore Murder Case [25] 1647
  - Civil Service Examinations [24] 1537
  - Councils Act—Return [22] 1093
  - Dum-Dum Murder [22] 1438
  - Firearms Fatalities [25] 400
  - Fulta Shooting Case [23] 205
  - Manipuris—Wrongful Conviction [24] 596
  - Newspaper Postage [23] 204, 205
  - Police Force—Assistant Superintendents [23] 203
  - Riots—Instruction as to Blank and Ball Cartridges [22] 1093
  - Sessions Judges—Sentences [23] 202
  - Smearing of Mango Trees [25] 586
  - Special Trains for Government Officials [25] 586
- Liquor Legislation in the Manx Legislature [25] 1353
- Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister [23] 340

CAINE, Mr. W. S.—*cont.*
- Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, 2R. [24] 728
- Parliamentary Election Expenses, Res. [24] 1341, 1349
- Suakin-Berber Railway Plant [25] 1350
- Weighing Machines, Stamping of [22] 1439

CALDWELL, Mr. J., *Lanark, Mid*
- Cambridge Corporation Bill, 3R. [24] 583
- Customs Department Sick Pay—Case of A. D. Murray [24] 776
- Heritable Securities (Scotland) Bill, Re-com. [27] 1106
- Local Government (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [24] 1054; Con. [28] 494, 499, 503, 512, 523, 536, 537, 543, 590, 591, 592, 593, 597, 604, 609, 623; Lords Amendts. [29] 286, 289, 302, 310
- Naval Contracts and Trade Union Wages [23] 616
- Scotland
  - County Council Deputation to London [25] 402
  - Employers' Liability [23] 854
  - Ironworkers' Wages [25] 1342
  - Lanarkshire Mining Accidents [26] 1480; [27] 23, 1014
  - Police Pension Act [24] 465
  - Procurator Fiscals as Law Agents—Case of Mr. Sproat [25] 789
  - School Attendance [24] 1416
- Supply [29] 172
  - Education in Scotland [29] 230

Caledonian Canal
- Paper pres.; to be printed *July* 20 [27] 644

Cambridge Corporation Bill
- *c.* As amended, Con. *May* 4 [24] 335
  - 3R.; Debate adjourned *May* 8, 579
  - Read 3°, and passed *May* 10, 750
- *l.* Read 3ª, and passed *June* 18 [25] 1323

Cambridge University and Vivisection
- Q. Colonel Lockwood; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 21 [25] 1648

CAMERON, Sir C., *Glasgow, College*
- Bridewell Prison [24] 223
- Church of Scotland Bill, Intro. [23] 1327
- "Costa Rica Packet" [23] 198, 199
- Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Acts Amendment (County of Bute) Bill, Intro. [22] 1379
- Local Government (Scotland) Bill [24] 242; 2R., 1044, 1048
- Marine Inquiries by the Board of Trade [23] 1416
- Parliament—Introduction of and Ballotting for Bills [22] 163
- Public Houses (Hours of Closing) (Scotland) Bill, Intro. [22] 853

[cont.

CAMERON, Sir C.—*cont.*
- Road Subvention Abolition (Scotland) Bill, Intro. [22] 853
- Sale of Food and Drugs Act (1875), &c., Amendment Bill, Intro. [22] 1379
- Scotland
  - Artillery Practice on the Firth of Clyde [26] 1468
  - Coll Free Church Minister [25] 409, 1101, 1620
  - Day Trespass Act, Prosecution under [22] 433
  - Evening Continuation School Code [24] 1272
  - Glasgow Pupil Teachers' Institution [25] 685
  - Intoxicants—Sale of to Children [25] 1209
  - School Books [23] 1081
  - Small-Pox at Leith [25] 570
- Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [22] 1493; [23] 1023, 1597
- Volunteers' Long Service Medals [25] 1628

CAMPBELL, Mr. J. A., *Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities*
- Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [23] 699, 1599

CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, RIGHT HON. H. (Secretary of State for War), *Stirling, &c.*
- Aldershot
  - Double Canteens [24] 584
  - Review—Soldiers not Available for Duty, &c. [24] 1394; [25] 14
  - Sewage Disposal [28] 21
- Appropriations in Aid—War Office Accounts [22] 307
- Army (Annual) Bill, Qs. [22] 855, 867, 906, 1115; 1R., 851; 2R., 894, 895; Com. [23] 555, 558, 559, 562, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 571, 572, 574, 577, 578, 580, 581, 582
- Army Estimates [25] 928, 1102
  - Additional Expenditure [22] 430
  - Artillery Majors [25] 1033
  - Billetting [25] 1032
  - Chelsea and Kilmainham Hospitals [27] 317
  - Clothing, &c. [26] 964, 971, 982, 994, 995
  - Colchester Huts [26] 1083
  - Contagious Diseases among the Troops [25] 1022, 1023
  - Crimean and Indian Mutiny Veterans [27] 321
  - Discharged and Reserve Soldiers [26] 1141
  - Drainage Works [26] 1042
  - Drawing Pensions at Post Offices [27] 323, 324
  - Dublin Main Drainage Scheme [26] 1134, 1136, 1137, 1139
  - Duke of Cambridge [27] 303, 306, 307
  - Egypt, British Soldiers in [22] 525, 545, 547
  - Employment for Reserve and Discharged Soldiers [25] 1017, 1037
  - Forage [22] 430
  - Gymnastic Training [25] 1032

[cont.

CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Right Hon. H.—*cont.*
- Army Estimates—*cont.*
  - Hospitals and Charitable Institutions [26] 1142
  - Imperial Defence Loan — Suez Canal Shares [26] 1144, 1145, 1146, 1148
  - Land Forces [22] 521, 545, 546, 547, 549
  - Medical Establishments [26] 805, 807, 810, 814, 816, 817, 819, 821, 822, 824, 825, 828, 830, 832, 833
  - Military Education [26] 1116, 1122
  - Militia [26] 840, 843, 846, 850, 855, 857, 858, 861, 864, 865
  - Netley College—Case of Dr. Corbett [26] 1125, 1127, 1129
  - Ordnance Factories [22] 550, 553, 555
  - Promotions from the Ranks [25] 1008, 1011
  - Retired Pay, Half Pay, &c. [27] 308
  - Rifle Ranges [25] 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008; [26] 1096
  - Rifles [26] 1029
  - Scotch Castles [26] 1113, 1114
  - Soldiers' Boxes [26] 1012
  - Transports and Remounts [26] 912, 914, 915, 916, 918
  - Volunteers [26] 889, 901, 907, 909, 910
  - Waltham Abbey Powder Factory—Colonel M'Clintock, &c. [26] 1026, 1027, 1029, 1030, 1034; [27] 311, 312, 314, 315
  - War Office, Salaries, &c. [27] 291, 293, 299, 301, 305, 306, 307
  - Warlike and other Stores [26] 1008
  - Warrant Officers' Uniform [25] 1032
  - Wellington Barracks [26] 1102
  - Works, Buildings, &c. [26] 1085, 1086, 1090, 1102, 1104, 1108, 1112, 1113, 1114
  - Yeomanry [26] 869, 871
- Artillery Bands [24] 229
- Barracks
  - Brighton [27] 1007
  - Construction [26] 448
  - Expenditure [23] 1448
  - Raglan Sewage Outfall [23] 191
- Bedding and other Barrack Accommodation for Soldiers [24] 366
- Billetting [22] 304, 1099
- Black Watch, 1st Battalion [26] 449
- Bootmakers, Civilian [24] 1543
- Brennan Torpedo [24] 232; [26] 792
- Business of the House [22] 271, 272, 273, 1460; [23] 292
- Canteens
  - Aldershot Double Canteens [24] 584
  - Sergeants' Pay [24] 364
  - Temperance [22] 1591
- Cavalry Horses [26] 787, 951
- Cavalry Regiments, Strength of [26] 20
- Ceylon
  - Defences of Colombo [22] 1443
  - Rifle Range [22] 1444
- Chelsea and Kilmainham Hospitals [25] 918
- Chelsea Hospital Fund [27] 671
- Colonial Officers and Military Appointments [24] 1164
- Commissions [27] 30
- Contagious Diseases among the Troops [23] 984

[cont.

CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Right Hon. H.—*cont.*
- Contracts and Trade Union Wages—Messrs. Berry and Sons [23] 9
- Cordite
  - Lee-Metford Rifle [24] 1528
  - Manufacturing [24] 1007, 1171
  - Maxim Gun [24] 1266
  - Musketry Practice [28] 559
- Crimean and Indian Mutiny Veterans [25] 1093; [26] 218, 944
- Danish Smokeless Powder [24] 1175
- Defensive Preparations [22] 495; [23] 463, 464
- Dockyard Labour and Wages, Res. [22] 652
- Eight Hours Day in Factories [22] 152
- Embarkation of Troops [25] 798
- Employment for Discharged and Reserve Soldiers [22] 514, 518; [23] 1098; [27] 29; [28] 18
- Enfield Factory—Workmen's Meetings [23] 1444; [25] 913
- Enlistment, Fraudulent [24] 474
- Essex Regiment [25] 1208
- Examinations [22] 445; [23] 1686; [24] 1281; [25] 40, 1348, 1643
- Flour—Home Produce [23] 211
- Fodder, Compressed, Contract [24] 376
- Foreign Military Service [27] 803
- Gibraltar—Frozen Meat Supplies [26] 1469
- Guards' Hospital, Westminster [24] 228
- Gymnastic Instructors [27] 666
- Hong Kong Plague [26] 796
- Hospital Meat Supplies [24] 365
- India
  - Dum-Dum Murder [22] 1438
  - Lance-Corporals [25] 400
  - Medical Staff Corps [24] 231
- Ireland
  - Antrim Castle Deer Park—Camp of Exercise [23] 846
  - Bands at Political Gatherings [28] 558
  - Bantry Bay Military Works [22] 686
  - Belfast Disturbances—2nd Battalion Dorset Regiment [23] 216, 217, 1587
  - Birr Barrack Scandal [27] 801
  - Canteen Supplies [24] 1153
  - Carnacassa, Militia Camp at [23] 1410
  - Corcoran, Peter, Case of [23] 215
  - Curragh Camp Works—Killaloe Slates, &c., [22] 1108; [23] 1436; [24] 1269
  - Dublin Main Drainage Scheme [27] 1009; [28] 448
  - Glenbeigh Shell Fatality [25] 791
  - Inniskilling Fusiliers Quartermaster [23] 1420
  - Kilbride Rifle Range [28] 445
  - Londonderry Barracks [23] 184
  - Mullingar Water Supply [22] 330
  - Officers at Race Meetings [23] 978
  - Soldiers' Institutes in Dublin [22] 1113
  - Soldiers Unloading Coal at Spike Island [22] 1451
  - Stewart, Colonel [25] 901
  - Taffe, Edward, Case of [22] 1572
- Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Motion for Leave [23] 1634, 1635

[*cont.*

CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Right Hon. H.—*cont.*
- Magazine Rifle [22] 899
- Malta, Fever at [26] 1306
- Maplin Sands, Gun Practice over [23] 836
- Medical Department
  - Hospital Corps [22] 326
  - Officers in the Home District [25] 557
  - "Professional Assistant" to the Director General [22] 1111
  - Report [24] 1419
  - Staff [27] 1408
  - Surgeon-Major Hamilton Gardner [22] 1514
- Militia
  - Magazine Rifles [25] 1081
  - Railway Passes [26] 1466
  - Sergeants' Pay [24] 595
- Mineral Oil [25] 1084
- Mobilisation [22] 521; [23] 1084
- Moss Litter for Horses [25] 24
- Mount Wise Bathing Place, Devonport [24] 1271
- Musketry Examination Papers [22] 445
- Naval Manœuvres [26] 1297
- Officers
  - Artillery Majors [22] 333
  - Lieutenant-Colonels' Promotion [25] 40
  - Mitchell, Colonel [26] 1308; [27] 158
  - Reserve Pay [25] 1209
  - Staff Officers' Pay and the Manœuvres [22] 580
  - Warrant Officers' Good Conduct Medals [25] 1457
- Patriotic Fund Commissioners and the Balaclava Fund [22] 569
- Pensions
  - Non-Commissioned Officers' [24] 1158
  - Pensioners and Public Houses [22] 1453; [23] 12, 13
  - Schoolmasters [24] 1388
  - Sergeant-Major Lowe's Widow [24] 1528
- Police at Factories [25] 31
- Pontefract Garrison Military Regulations [22] 302
- Presents of Specimens of Lee-Metford Rifles and Cordite Ammunition to Foreign Governments [23] 1413
- Promotions
  - Foot Guards [28] 558
  - Lieutenant Colonels [25] 40
- Quartermasters' Appointments [25] 287
- Queen's Birthday Celebrations [25] 404
- Queen's Birthday Honours—Order of the Bath, &c. [25] 575
- Reserve
  - Employment (*see* sub-heading Employment for Discharged and Reserve Soldiers)
  - Reservists' Pay as Telegraphists [25] 1625
  - Transport [26] 224; [28] 30
- Rifle Ranges
  - Lee-Metford Rifle [22] 1098
  - Metropolitan Volunteers [28] 438
  - Staines [27] 1394

[*cont.*

CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Right Hon. H.—*cont.*
- Rifle Ranges—*cont.*
  - Tipton [25] 922, 1343
  - Wimbledon Fatality [24] 1278; [25] 1469; [26] 574; [27] 1564
- Royal Artillery at Tenterden — Damage Committed by Soldiers [24] 1161
- Scotland
  - Artillery Practice on the Firth of Clyde [26] 1468
  - Barry Links [28] 463
  - Caithness Volunteer Artillery Corps [23] 1684
  - Dalmore Shooting Range [28] 564
  - Hamilton Brigade Depôt [22] 12
  - Highland Light Infantry Militia [28] 30
- Short Service System—Soldiers' Grievances [24] 1394; [25] 14
- Sierra Leone, Defence of [27] 1002
- Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [22] 1499, 1500; [23] 673, 674, 679, 685, 719, 720, 1032, 1603, 1608, 1612
- Standing Orders [22] 608
- Stores, Reserve [22] 585
- Straits Settlements—Military Contributions [27] 1016
- Troopships—"Indulgence" Passages from India [24] 1264
- Uniforms Bill, 2R. [24] 708, 710
- Volunteers
  - Capitation Grants [26] 1476; [28] 440
  - Decorations—Long Service Medals, &c. [22] 315, 1448, 1515; [23] 10, 183, 216, 1672; [25] 556, 581, 1086, 1629; [26] 135, 233, 1465
  - Forage Allowances [26] 19
  - Mounted [25] 299
  - Officers, Military Instruction for [22] 904
  - Sergeant Instructors and Railway Fares [22] 566
- Waltham Abbey Factory Explosions [22] 154, 155; [24] 576, 1440, 1441, 1442, 1444, 1445, 1449, 1451, 1452; [25] 1349; [26] 20, 454; [27] 1568
- Windsor Park, Polo in [24] 1276
- Woolwich Arsenal Machinery and the Thames Whitebait [23] 1409
- Workshops, Soldiers' [27] 1393

Campden Trust
- Q. Major Darwin; A. Mr. F. S. Stevenson *July* 5 [26] 946

CAMPERDOWN, Earl of
- Betterment—Town Improvements, Select Com. Report [27] 342
- Business of the House [28] 890
- Chimney Sweepers Bill, Com. [27] 1113, 1114
- Cockenzie Fishery Provisional Order Bill, 2R. [26] 1, 3
- Injured Animals Bill, 2R. [25] 392; Com., 761, 762, 763; 3R. [26] 774; Commons Amendts. [26] 1439
- Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill, 2R. [25] 389

[*cont.*

CAMPERDOWN, Earl of—*cont.*
- Local Government Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill, 2R. [25] 389
- Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Com. [28] 1166, 1183, 1184, 1185, 1189, 1193, 1194, 1195, 1196, 1200, 1206, 1207, 1211; Report, 1360, 1361, 1362
- Valuation of Lands (Scotland) Acts Amendment Bill, Com. [27] 655

CANADA
- *Behring Sea Arbitration Bill*, Qs. Mr. G. Bowles; As. Mr. Buxton *April* 12 [23] 212; Qs. Mr. Hanbury, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Mr. Buxton *April* 12, 216; Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. Buxton *April* 12, 219; Qs. Sir G. Baden-Powell, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Mr. Buxton *April* 16, 460
- *British Tariff — Prison-Made Goods*, Qs. Colonel H. Vincent; As. Mr. Mundella *April* 20 [23] 975; *June* 29 [26] 568
- *Canadian Pacific Railway—Parcels from Hong Kong*, Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. A. Morley *June* 4 [25] 287
- *Cattle Importation* (see under *Agriculture, Board of*)
- *Copyright*, Q. Mr. Stuart-Wortley; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 19 [23] 839; Q. Mr. Curzon; A. Mr. Buxton *May* 3 [24] 238
- *Crofters' Settlements*, Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *April* 3 [22] 1254; *May* 24 [24] 1173; *May* 28, 1420; *June* 4 [25] 294; *June* 5, 409; *July* 9 [26] 1192
  - References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 20 [29] 103, &c.
- *Election Disputes*, Q. Sir C. Dilke; A. Mr. Buxton *April* 5 [22] 1453
- *Ottawa Conference*, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Buxton *May* 8 [24] 607; Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. Buxton *May* 24, 1170; Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Buxton *May* 28, 1423; Q. Mr. Crombie; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 8 [25] 689; Q. Sir R. Temple; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 12, 923; Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 14, 1094; Qs. Colonel H. Vincent; As. Mr. Buxton, Sir W. Harcourt *July* 12 [26] 1478; Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. G. Bowles, Mr. J. Lowther; As. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 13, 1572; Qs. Sir A. Rollit, Mr. J. Lowther, Mr. W. Johnston; As. Mr. Buxton *July* 19 [27] 382; Q. Mr. Hogan; A. Mr. Buxton *July* 24, 794; Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Buxton *July* 24, 811; Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Buxton *Aug* 21 [29] 174; Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 23, 855
- *Pacific Cable*, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *July* 10 [26] 1305; Q. Mr. Hogan; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 19 [27] 363
- *Tea Duties*, Q. Mr. Howard; A. Mr. Buxton *April* 12 [23] 183; Qs. Mr. Howard, Sir R. Hanson; As. Mr. Buxton *April* 16, 455; Q. Mr. Howard; A. Mr. Buxton *April* 19, 836; Qs. Mr. Howard, Sir R. Hanson; As. Mr. Buxton *April* 23, 1094

Canal Rates and Tolls
Q. Mr. Wilson-Todd; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 10 [23] 18; Q. Mr. Wrightson; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 10, 20; Qs. Sir J. Whitehead; As. Mr. Mundella *April* 17, 635

Canal Rates, Tolls, and Charges Provisional Orders Bills
Joint Committee, Reports, &c., May 7 [24] 575; *May* 10, 750; *May* 25, 1363; *June* 2 [25] 282; *July* 23 [27] 785
Commissioner of Public Works in Ireland—Leave to Appeal *July* 17 [27] 276
Printing of Evidence, &c., June 8 [25] 670

Canal Tolls and Charges Provisional Orders Bills

(No. 1)
c. Intro., Mr. Burt; Read 1° *April* 20 [23] 1067
Read 2° *May* 8 [24] 691
Reported *July* 23 [27] 785
As amended, Con. *July* 26, 1106
Read 3°, and passed *July* 27, 1218
l. Read 1ª *July* 30, 1237
Read 2ª *Aug* 6 [28] 117
Com.; Reported, &c. *Aug* 7, 236
Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 13, 755
Royal Assent *Aug* 17
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxcvi]

(No. 2)
c. Intro., Mr. Burt; Read 1° *April* 27 [23] 1637
Read 2° *May* 23 [24] 1131
Reported *July* 23 [27] 785
As amended, Con. *July* 26, 1107
Read 3°, and passed *July* 27, 1218
l. Read 1ª *July* 30, 1237
Read 2ª *Aug* 6 [28] 117
Com.; Reported, &c. *Aug* 7, 236
Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 14, 892
c. Lords Amendts. agreed to *Aug* 15, 1150
l. Royal Assent *Aug* 17
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxcvii]

(No. 3)
c. Intro., Mr. Burt; Read 1° *May* 3 [24] 332
Read 2° *May* 25, 1361
Reported *July* 23 [27] 785
As amended, Con. *July* 26, 1107
Read 3°, and passed *July* 27, 1218
l. Read 1ª *July* 30, 1237
Read 2ª *Aug* 6 [28] 117
Com.; Reported, &c. *Aug* 7, 236
Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 13, 755
Royal Assent *Aug* 17
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxcviii]

[*cont.*

Canal Tolls and Charges Provisional Orders Bills—cont.

(No. 4)
c. Intro., Mr. Burt; Read 1° *May* 28 [24] 1502
Read 2° *June* 15 [25] 1316
Reported *July* 23 [27] 786
As amended, Con. *July* 31, 1368, 1369
Read 3°, and passed *Aug* 1, 1554
l. Read 1ª *Aug* 2, 1558
Read 2ª *Aug* 13 [28] 755
Com.; Standing Com. negatived, &c. *Aug* 14, 891
Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 16, 1215
Royal Assent *Aug* 25
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cciv]

(No. 5)
c. Intro., Mr. Burt; Read 1° *May* 28 [24] 1502
Read 2° *June* 15 [25] 1317
Reported *July* 23 [27] 786
As amended, Con. *July* 26, 1107
Read 3°, and passed *July* 27, 1218
l. Read 1ª *July* 30, 1237
Read 2ª *Aug* 6 [28] 117
Com.; Reported, &c. *Aug* 7, 236
Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 13, 755
Royal Assent *Aug* 17
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxcix]

(No. 6)
c. Intro., Mr. Burt; Read 1° *May* 28 [24] 1502
Read 2° *June* 15 [25] 1317
Reported *July* 23 [27] 786
As amended, Con.; Read 3°, and passed *Aug* 9 [28] 429
l. Read 1ª *Aug* 13, 757
Read 2ª *Aug* 16, 1215
Com.; Reported, &c. *Aug* 20 [29] 9
Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 21, 149
Royal Assent *Aug* 25
[57° & 58° Vic. c. ccv]

(No. 7)
c. Intro., Mr. Burt; Read 1° *June* 1 [25] 271
Read 2° *June* 15, 1317
Reported *July* 23 [27] 786
As amended, Con. *July* 26, 1107
Read 3°, and passed *July* 27, 1219
l. Read 1ª *July* 30, 1237
Read 2ª *Aug* 6 [28] 117
Com.; Reported, &c. *Aug* 7, 236
Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 13, 755
Royal Assent *Aug* 17
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cc]

(No. 8)
c. Intro., Mr. Burt; Read 1° *June* 1 [25] 271
Read 2° *June* 15, 1317
Reported *July* 23 [27] 786
As amended, Con. *July* 26, 1107
Read 3°, and passed *July* 27, 1219

[*cont.*

Canal Tolls and Charges Provisional Orders Bills—cont.
l. Read 1ª *July* 30, 1237
Read 2ª *Aug* 6 [28] 117
Com.; Reported, &c. *Aug* 7, 236
Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 13, 755
Royal Assent *Aug* 17
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cci]

(No. 9)
c. Intro., Mr. Burt; Read 1° *June* 1 [25] 271
Read 2° *June* 15, 1317
Reported *July* 23 [27] 787
[*Not Proceeded with*]

(No. 10)
c. Intro., Mr. Burt; Read 1° *June* 1 [25] 271
Read 2° *June* 15, 1317
Reported *July* 23 [27] 787
As amended, Con. *July* 26, 1107
Read 3°, and passed *July* 27, 1219
l. Read 1ª *July* 30, 1237
now
(No. 9)
Read 2ª *Aug* 6 [28] 117
Com.; Reported, &c. *Aug* 7, 236
Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 13, 756
c. Lords Amendts. agreed to *Aug* 14, 1083
l. Royal Assent *Aug* 17
[57° & 58° Vic. c. ccii]

(No. 11)
c. Intro., Mr. Burt; Read 1° *June* 1 [25] 272
Read 2° *June* 15, 1317
Reported *July* 23 [27] 787
As amended, Con.; Read 3°, and passed *Aug* 2, 1664
l. Read 1ª *Aug* 2, 1558
now
(No. 10)
Read 2ª *Aug* 13 [28] 755
Com.; Reported, &c. *Aug* 14, 979
Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 16, 1215
Royal Assent *Aug* 25
[57° & 58° Vic. c. ccvi]

(No. 12)
c. Intro., Mr. Burt; Read 1° *June* 1 [25] 272
Read 2° *June* 15, 1317
Reported *July* 23 [27] 787
As amended, Con. *July* 26, 1107
Read 3°, and passed *July* 27, 1219
l. Read 1ª *July* 30, 1238
now
(No. 11)
Read 2ª *Aug* 6 [28] 118
Com.; Reported, &c. *Aug* 7, 237
Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 13, 756
c. Lords Amendts. agreed to *Aug* 14, 1083
l. Royal Assent *Aug* 17
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cciii]

Canals in France
Q. Mr. Knox; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 28 [24] 1405

Canteens (see under *Army*)

CANTERBURY, Archbishop of
Endowed Schools Act, 1869, and Amending Acts and Welsh Intermediate Education Act, 1889 (Scheme for the County of Flint), Res. [23] 602
Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, 2R. [25] 1198

CAPE (*see* under AFRICA)

Cape Andrea Lights
Q. Admiral Field; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 30 [27] 1260

Carbolic Acid, Deaths from
Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Mr. Acland *April* 20 [23] 968

Cardiff Corporation Bill
c. As amended, Con. *July* 2 [26] 661

CARLISLE, Earl of
Antique Casts at South Kensington Museum [23] 1570

CARMARTHEN, Marquess of, *Lambeth, Brixton*
Army Estimates—Conveyance of Troops [26] 912
Building Societies (No. 3) Bill, 2R. [24] 331
Business of the House [22] 1635; [26] 320
Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill, 2R. [23] 944
Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, 2R. [24] 331
Heritable Securities (Scotland) Bill, Re-com. [26] 512
House of Commons Accommodation, Select Com. [23] 1067
Indian Railway Companies Bill, 2R. [24] 690
Pistols and Revolver Accidents, Res. [22] 1036
Places of Worship (Sites) Bill, 2R. [23] 111
Public Buildings (London) Bill, Com. [24] 1125
Shop Hours Act (1892) Amendment Bill, Com. [24] 1127
Supply—Houses of Parliament [22] 978, 981
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [27] 423

CARMICHAEL, Sir J. M., *Glasgow, St. Rollox*
Disarmament Policy [22] 436
Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Con. [28] 415

[*cont.*

CARMICHAEL, Sir J. M.—*cont.*
Scotch Education Code Resolution—Point of Order [24] 901
Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [22] 1193
Ways and Means, Com. [29] 131

CARSON, Mr. E., *Dublin University*
Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, Con. [27] 1624, 1646, 1649, 1653, 1654, 1655, 1660
Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act (1887) Repeal Bill, 2R. [23] 788, 792, 794
Death Duties [23] 1680; [24] 377
Education Act Amendment Bill [26] 430
Finance Bill, Com., *cl.* 2 [25] 466; *cl.* 5, 939, 1115; *cl.* 6, 1288, 1290, 1299, 1391; *cl.* 9, 1539; *cl.* 11, 1685; *cl.* 13, 1688; *cl.* 18 [26] 251; Con. [27] 46

Ireland
Boycotting at Kells [22] 1109
Clare Assizes—Mr. Justice O'Brien's Remarks [22] 886
Cork Street Preaching [22] 1588; [23] 628
Evicted Farms [27] 18
Fisheries, South Coast [23] 615
High Sheriffs [26] 429; [28] 247, 473
Land Acts, Select Com. [22] 870, 1455
Land-Grabbing Denunciations [27] 670
Licensing Question and Magistrates [23] 1105
Quit-Rents [27] 659
Registration of Titles [22] 864; [28] 7
Small Holdings, Res. [23] 404, 409, 412, 413
Veterinary College Grant [24] 808

Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, 2R. [24] 1639
Solicitors (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [23] 426
Solicitors (Ireland) (No. 2) Bill, Intro. [22] 1316
Steam Trawlers (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [24] 1680

Supply
Administration of Ireland [25] 1601
Lord Lieutenant's Household [25] 1548, 1549

Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [23] 920, 922; 2R. [27] 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 467, 468, 480, 569, 725; Com., *cl.* 1, 1035, 1059, 1064, 1066, 1080, 1082, 1086, 1148, 1165, 1166, 1174, 1175, 1191

CARVILL, Mr. P. G. H., *Newry*
Hammersmith, Board School for [23] 1415
Newry Post Office [24] 37

CASTLETOWN, Lord
County Secretaries Superannuation (Ireland) Bill, Pres. [24] 750

Cattle (see under *Agriculture, Board of*)

Cavalry Horses (see under *Army*)

CAYZER, Mr. C. W., *Barrow-in-Furness*
Manning Mercantile Marine [24] 787
Navy—Recruiting [26] 231
Swaziland Convention [26] 1477; [27] 688
Transvaal Republic [24] 1397

Cemeteries (see under *Burial Grounds*)

Census
Q. Sir F. S. Powell; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 21 [29] 165
Cost of, Q. Sir F. Dixon-Hartland; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Mar* 16 [22] 444
Welsh-Speaking Population, Q. Mr. Lloyd-George; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 21 [29] 179
References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 20 [29] 33, &c.; *Aug* 22, 321, &c.

Central American Republics
British Trade, Q. Mr. Hozier; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 17 [28] 1379

Certified Truant Industrial Schools
Copy pres. *May* 10 [24] 910

CEYLON
Colombo, Defences of, Q. Mr. Schwann; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 5 [22] 1443
Land Titles, Q. Mr. Schwann; A. Mr. Buxton *May* 28 [24] 1408
Opium Question, Q. Mr. S. Smith; A. Mr. Buxton *April* 24 [23] 1219
Rifle Range, Q. Mr. Schwann; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 5 [22] 1444
Rifles—Royal Warwickshire Regiment, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Woodall *April* 9 [22] 1519

Chailey Common
Q. Mr. Byles; A. Mr. Gardner *Aug* 7 [28] 258

CHAMBERLAIN, Mr. J. A., *Worcestershire, E.*
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Com. [27] 1182, 1184

CHAMBERLAIN, Right Hon. J., *Birmingham, W.*
Anglo-Belgian Agreement [26] 244
Army Estimates—Ordnance Factories [22] 551
Behring Sea Award Bill [22] 1575

[*cont.*

CHAMBERLAIN, Right Hon. J.—*cont.*
- Business of the House [22] 449, 1460, 1520, 1616, 1621, 1622, 1674; [25] 60; [27] 284
  - Ministerial Statement, Motion for Adjournment of the House [27] 399, 400, 401, 402
  - Procedure — Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Arbitration Bill, Res. [27] 1422, 1426, 1429
- Darfur and Equatoria, Egyptian Sphere between [25] 174, 175
- East London Water Bill, 2R. [22] 1418, 1419
- Finance Bill, Com. [24] 1244, 1246, 1492; [25] 347, 353; [26] 141, 143
- German Prison-Made Goods [23] 1079
- Irish Evictions, Number of [28] 444
- Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, Com. [28] 1031, 1047
- Old Age Provident Pensions Bill, 2R. [22] 1357
- Period of Qualification and Elections Bill, 2R. [24] 379, 391, 392, 402, 404
- Queen's Speech, Reply to [22] 70, 189, 251
  - Gladstone, Mr. W. E.—Retirement from Office [22] 190
  - House of Lords [22] 265
- Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [23] 721, 999, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, 1028, 1605
- Supply—Uganda [25] 252, 257
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [27] 674, 676; Com., *cl.* 1, 1037, 1090, 1092, 1093, 1096, 1098, 1099, 1151, 1152, 1166, 1167, 1192, 1208, 1211, 1212, 1216, 1217; 3R. [28] 340, 342, 343, 345, 355, 356
- Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill, Con. [27] 1383
- Uganda—Sir G. Portal's Report, &c. [22] 222, 223, 1095
- Vacation of Seat on Succession to Peerage, Motion for Select Com. [26] 397, 407, 410, 422, 423
- West Ham Town Clerkships [27] 362

CHAMBERLAYNE, Mr. T., *Southampton*
- Crimean Veterans, Destitute [26] 218
- Dead British Sailors on the French Coast [25] 1467
- Offences on the High Seas [29] 416

CHANCE, Mr. P. A., *Kilkenny, S.*
- Behring Sea Award Bill, Com. [22] 1682
- Introduction of and Ballotting for Bills [22] 136
- Ireland
  - Cashin, J., Case of [26] 694
  - Erasmus Smith's Endowment [27] 661

Channel Fleet (see under *Navy*)

Channel Islands—Mail Service
- Q. Mr. Pierpoint; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 21 [29] 161

CHANNING, Mr. F. A., *Northampton, E.*
- Agricultural Holdings Bill, Intro. [24] 1364
- Armenian Prisoners [24] 219
- Arran Islands, Destitution in [22] 1511; [23] 834, 1440; [24] 792
- Dairy Industry [24] 793
- District and Parish Councils' Returning Officers [26] 229
- Eastbourne School Accommodation [22] 336
- Egypt—Corvée [26] 1197
- Hampstead Christ Church National School [25] 593
- Kettering Charities [27] 802
- King's College Hospital—Death from Chloroform [25] 593
- Lambeth School Accommodation [27] 1001
- Notice of Motion on the Irish Estimates [22] 1522
- Parochial Electors (Registration Acceleration) Bill [26] 455
- Railway and Canal Traffic Bill [24] 1536; Com. [28] 640, 644, 787, 788, 789, 795, 798
- Railways
  - Accidents—Board of Trade Inquiries, &c. [22] 1249; [24] 1419; [25] 297; [27] 17
  - Level Crossing Fatality at Camborne [25] 29
  - Platelayers, Accidents to [23] 1441
  - Signalmen [28] 459, 477
  - Tain Collision—Hours of Labour [25] 594
- St. Augustine's Boys' School, Kilburn [27] 25
- Scilly Islands and the Local Government Act [25] 591
- Supply
  - Railway Companies and the Board of Trade [28] 1518
  - Railway Servants' Accidents [24] 1328
  - Railway Sub-Inspectors [24] 1327
- Vaccination [25] 914; [27] 1247
- Voluntary School Accounts [25] 592
- Westminster School Accommodation [27] 1000

CHANTABUN (see under *Franco-Siamese Question*)

CHAPLIN, Right Hon. H., *Lincolnshire, Sleaford*
- Agricultural Depression, Res. [23] 359, 362, 363
- Agricultural Depression in Essex [25] 845, 847, 848
- Budget Proposals and Agricultural Land [23] 1228
- Business of the House [27] 1271
- Canadian Cattle Importation [23] 1087; [24] 32, 773, 774, 1154, 1279, 1424; [25] 176, 919; [26] 1473
- Derby Day Adjournment, Res. [25] 430, 431, 432
- Diseases of Animals Bill, Re-com. [28] 367; 3R., 1076, 1077, 1079, 1080
- East India Revenue Accounts, Com. [28] 1298, 1300

[*cont.*

CHAPLIN, Right Hon. H.—*cont.*

Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 524, 679, 685, 686, 891; Com., *cl.* 1 [25] 87, 96, 364; *cl.* 3, 701; *cl.* 5, 1105, 1112; *cl.* 6, 1255, 1307; *cl.* 7, 1478; *cl.* 14 [26] 27, 28; *cl.* 15, 76, 80; *cl.* 29, 469, 470; *cl.* 31, 504, 505, 506, 507; Con. 1222, 1228, 1229

German Silver Commission [22] 155

Ordnance Survey Maps [24] 1181

Pleuro-Pneumonia in Kent [24] 43, 1278

Pleuro-Pneumonia—Lord Ripon's Letter [24] 774

Supply
- Canadian Cattle Importation [27] 1357
- Ordnance Surveys [24] 979, 980, 984, 992
- Sleaford Post Office [24] 944
- Tuberculosis Commission Report [27] 549
- Vote on Account [24] 1323

Swine Fever [25] 808

Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R., 628, 630; [27] 631, 633, 634, 635, 636

Trade and Agriculture, Depression of—Amendt. to Address in Answer to Queen's Speech [22] 115

Tuberculosis Commission [24] 1402

Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 1230, 1232, 1279

Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway Bill

c. Read 2° *April* 11 [23] 113

Charitable Trusts Acts Amendment Bill

l. Pres., Lord Halsbury; Read 1ª *April* 9 [22] 1565

Read 2ª *April* 26 [23] 1403

Com.; Reported; Re-com. to Standing Com. *April* 30, 1658

Reported from the Standing Com. *May* 8 [24] 577

Read 3ª, and passed *June* 18 [25] 1338

c. Read 1° *June* 25 [26] 203

Read 2° *July* 25 [27] 951

Con. in Com.; Reported; Read 3°, and passed *Aug* 1, 1554

l. Royal Assent *Aug* 17

[57° & 58° Vic. c. 35]

CHARITY COMMISSION

Parliamentary Charity Commissioner—Mr. F. S. STEVENSON

Aliens and British Charities, Q. Major Darwin; A. Mr. F. S. Stevenson *June* 15 [25] 1215

Assistant Masters of Secondary Schools, Q. Mr. C. Roundell; A. Mr. F. S. Stevenson *May* 8 [24] 592

Austie, Mr., Q. Mr. C. Williams; A. Mr. Acland *Mar* 29 [22] 903

Bradford Endowments, Return ordered *Aug* 10 [28] 652

Campden Trust, Q. Major Darwin; A. Mr. F. S. Stevenson *July* 5 [26] 946

CHARITY COMMISSION—cont.

Christ's Hospital, Q. Major Darwin; A. Mr. Acland *April* 5 [22] 1430

City of London Parochial Charities, Return ordered *Aug* 10 [28] 652

Copy pres. June 7 [25] 668

Coventry Charities, Q. Mr. Ballantine; A. Mr. F. S. Stevenson *Aug* 10 [28] 549

Daniel's Charity, Swanscombe, Q. Mr. Howell; A. Mr. F. S. Stevenson *Aug* 6 [28] 142

Dinder Charity Lands, Q. Mr. C. Hobhouse; A. Mr. Acland *April* 12 [23] 186

Diversions of Charities, Qs. Mr. Arch, Mr. Dodd; As. Mr. F. S. Stevenson *May* 31 [25] 27

East Bergholt Lands, Q. Mr. Everett; A. Mr. F. S. Stevenson *Aug* 9 [28] 476

Endowed Schools Acts (see under title *Education*)

Essex Charity Lands, Sale of, Q. Mr. Dodd; A. Mr. F. S. Stevenson *Aug* 9 [28] 449

Hanbury Charities, Langton, Q. Mr. Logan; A. Mr. Acland *May* 31 [25] 21

Herefordshire Charities, Q. Mr. Dodd; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 20 [29] 10

Horwell's Endowed Schools Trustee, Q. Mr. Owen; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Mar* 15 [22] 304

Hulme's Charity, Q. Mr. Snape; A. Mr. F. S. Stevenson *June* 5 [25] 481

Kettering Charities, Q. Mr. Channing; A. Mr. F. S. Stevenson *July* 24 [27] 802

Kew, Petersham, and Richmond Endowments, Return pres. *Aug* 22 [29] 344

Lancashire Charities, Q. Mr. Snape; A. Mr. F. S. Stevenson *July* 2 [26] 692

Lincolnshire and Worcestershire Charities, Q. Mr. Dodd; A. Mr. F. S. Stevenson *June* 7 [25] 577

Local Government Act—New Duties of Commissioners, Qs. Mr. Dodd, Mr. J. W. Lowther; As. Mr. Acland *Mar* 30 [22] 1002

London Parochial Charities, Q. Mr. Howell; A. Mr. F. S. Stevenson *Aug* 6 [28] 142

Lytham School, Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Mr. F. S. Stevenson *Aug* 6 [28] 141

Meriall's Charity, Swanscombe, Q. Mr. Howell; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 23 [29] 371

Oxford—St. Mary the Virgin Charities, Q. Mr. Dodd; A. Mr. Acland *April* 9 [22] 1587

Parliamentary Commissioner, Q. Mr. C. Williams; A. Sir W. Harcourt *Mar* 22 [22] 869

St. Botolph, Aldgate, Charities, Q. Sir A. Scoble; A. Mr. Acland *June* 5 [25] 399

St. Katherine's Hospital, Regent's Park, Q. Mr. Cremer; A. Mr. F. S. Stevenson *Aug* 2 [27] 1571

St. Paul's School, Q. Mr. J. Lowther; A. Mr. Acland *June* 11 [25] 789; Q. Mr. A. C. Morton; A. Mr. F. S. Stevenson *Aug* 17 [28] 1389

CHARITY COMMISSION—cont.
Smith's School Charity, Nuneaton, Q. Mr. Cobb; A. Mr. Acland *June* 21 [25] 1623
Thames Public Rights—Sale of an Eyot near Abingdon, Q. Mr. Lough; A. Mr. F. S. Stevenson *May* 28 [24] 1399
Vote for, *Aug* 17 [28] 1482
West Riding of the County of York Endowments, Return ordered *Aug* 10 [28] 652

Charity Commission, Select Committee
Motion for (Mr. J. E. Ellis) *Mar* 30 [22] 1009
Com. nominated *April* 10 [23] 112
Lord Welby to attend as Witness *June* 15 [25] 1204
Report *July* 16 [27] 116

Chelmsford, Lord
Uniforms Bill, 2R. [27] 1365, 1366

Chelsea Hospital (see under *Army*)

Chelsea Hospital for Women
Q. Mr. J. Stuart; A. Mr. G. Russell *Aug* 22 [29] 277

Chesney, General Sir G. T., *Oxford*
Army Estimates
Contagious Diseases among the Troops [25] 1025
Employment of Reserve Soldiers, &c. [25] 1012
Medical Department [26] 826
East India Revenue Accounts, Com. [28] 1328
Finance Bill, 3R. [27] 222
India, Government of, Res. [28] 1103, 1104
Indian Opium Commission, Cost of [28] 677
Military and Naval Defensive Preparations, Res. [22] 485
Queen's Speech—Indian Finance [22] 208, 215
Rich's, Colonel, Pension [22] 685; [25] 1088
Uniforms Bill, 2R. [24] 712

Chesterfield, Earl of
Chimney Sweepers Bill, 2R. [27] 789
Coal Mines (Check Weigher) Bill, 2R. [26] 1437
Commissioners of Works Bill, 2R. [25] 159
Diseases of Animals Bill, 2R. [29] 8
Industrial Schools Bill, 2R. [26] 1180
Injured Animals Bill, 2R. [25] 393; Com. 761, 762, 763, 764
Locomotive Threshing Engines Bill, 2R. [26] 774
Music and Dancing Licences (Middlesex) Bill, 2R. [25] 160
Pistols Bill, 2R. [23] 960; Com. [24] 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16; 3R. [26] 657, 658, 659
Quarries Bill, 2R. [26] 1180

Children, Cruelty to — Sentence on Elizabeth Saunders
Q. Mr. P. Williams; A. Sir J. Rigby *July* 27 [27] 1142; Q. Mr. P. Williams; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 31, 1398

Children, Imprisonment of (see under title *Law, &c.*)

Chili, British Claims against
Qs. Sir E. Clarke, Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Sir E. Grey *May* 1 [24] 39

Chili Convention, Ratification of
Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir E. Grey *Mar* 16 [22] 447

Chimney Sweepers Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Labouchere; Read 1° *May* 10 [24] 910
Read 2° *June* 5 [25] 495
Con. in Com., and reported *June* 11, 888
As amended, Con. deferred *June* 12, 999
As amended, Con.; Read 3°, and passed *June* 22 [26] 103
l. Read 1ª *June* 25, 114
Order for 2R. *July* 17 [27] 158
Read 2ª *July* 24, 789
Com. *July* 27, 1113
Reported, &c. *July* 31, 1367
Amendts. reported *Aug* 2, 1557
Read 3ª, with Amendts., and passed *Aug* 3 [28] 4
c. Lords Amendts. con., and agreed to *Aug* 17, 1488
l. Royal Assent *Aug* 25
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 51]

China
British Postal Agencies, Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 4 [25] 288
Burmese Frontier—Anglo-Chinese Convention, Qs. Mr. Curzon; As. Sir E. Grey *May* 3 [24] 217; *July* 17 [27] 167
Importation of Machinery, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 26 [26] 221
Kiang Hung, Cession of, Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 2 [22] 1098
Legation and Consular Buildings, Indian Contributions to—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Mar* 30 [22] 1081
Opium Exportation from India, Qs. Mr. J. E. Ellis; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 8 [24] 589; *July* 16 [27] 13
Tien-Tsin Postal Arrangements, Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 31 [25] 8; Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 4, 291

Chino-Japanese War

Qs. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; As. Sir E. Grey *July* 5 [26] 950; *July* 6, 1070; Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Sir E. Grey *July* 26 [27] 1027; Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Mr. Buxton *July* 27, 1145

British Squadron in Corean Waters, Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 24 [29] 420

Commercial Transactions, Q. Sir R. Temple; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 23 [29] 369

Corea, Affairs of, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 5 [25] 415

"*Kow Shing*," *Sinking of the*, Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 10 [28] 569; Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 23 [29] 386

Neutral Ports, Q. Mr. Hozier; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 21 [29] 167

Neutral Vessels, &c., Q. Mr. Storey; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 6 [28] 144

Port Hamilton, Withdrawal from, Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Sir E. Grey *July* 10 [26] 1300

References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *July* 30 [27] 1350, &c.

Chisels, Fraudulently-Marked (see under *Trade, Board of*)

Cholera Precautions (see under *Local Government Board*)

Christ's Hospital (see under *Charity Commission*)

Church Estates Commission

Copy pres. *Mar* 12 [22] 129

Church in Wales (see WALES)

Church of England

Disestablishment (see under titles SCOTLAND and WALES, and titles of Bills)

Marriage Laws—Case before Mr. de Rutzen, Qs. Sir G. O. Morgan; As. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 20 [22] 701; *April* 2, 1108

Church of Scotland Bill

c. Intro., Sir C. Cameron; Read 1° *April* 24 [23] 1327

[Dropped]

Church of Scotland Bill

Q. Sir M. Stewart; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 8 [24] 609; Qs. Mr. Crombie, Mr. Hozier; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *Aug* 21 [29] 149

Church of Scotland Reference Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Thorburn; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 458

[Dropped]

Church Patronage Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Bartley; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 450

Read 2° *May* 2 [24] 142

Reported from Standing Com. *June* 11 [25] 890

As amended, Con.; R.P. *July* 18 [27] 330

CHURCHILL, Right Hon. Lord R., *Paddington, S.*

Army and Navy Defensive Preparations, Res. [22] 481, 483

Business of the House, Res. [22] 1599, 1666; [25] 71
  Mines (Eight Hours) Bill [24] 1423
  Motion for Select Com. [22] 1263, 1268, 1269, 1270, 1272

Cambridge Corporation Bill, Con. [24] 354, 356

Cycle Riding [24] 1410

Finance Bill, Com. [26] 1237

Irish Church Surplus Fund Return [23] 1094

Labour Minister Bill, 2R. [24] 179

Ladies' Gallery [23] 1448

Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, 2R. [23] 1361, 1364, 1365, 1369

Newcastle and Gateshead Water Bill, 2R. [24] 1520, 1522

Parliamentary Elections [Expenses], Res. [24] 1350, 1351

Period of Qualification and Elections Bill, Intro. [23] 373, 374; 2R. [24] 80, 86

Privilege—Lord Rosebery's Speech at Edinburgh, Res. [22] 588, 605, 607

Queen's Speech, Reply to [22] 164
  Gladstone, Mr. W. E.—Retirement from Office [22] 166

Registration Expenses [24] 47

Saxe-Coburg, Duke of (Annuity), Res. [23] 1046, 1049, 1050, 1051, 1053

Supply—Uganda [25] 186, 208

Uganda—"Defeat of Kaba Rega" [24] 487

Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 1111

City

Rate, Q. Mr. A. Gibbs; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 2 [27] 1570

Unification (see that title)

City of London Parochial Charities

Return ordered *Aug* 10 [28] 652

Civic Offices and Naval Employés (see under *Navy*)

Civil List Pensions

Paper pres.; to be printed *July* 4 [26] 919

Professor Rhys-Davids, Qs. Mr. Bartley, Mr. Paul, Mr. Byles; As. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 12 [26] 1483

References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *July* 30 [27] 1291, &c.

Civil Service
- *Admiralty Second Division Clerks,* Q. Captain Norton; A. Mr. E. Robertson *May* 28 [24] 1399
- *Civic Offices,* Q. Mr. E. J. C. Morton; A. Mr. E. Robertson *July* 13 [26] 1569
- *Colonel Rich's Pension,* Qs. Sir G. Chesney; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Mar* 20 [22] 685; *June* 14 [25] 1088
- *Colonial and India Offices — Assistant Clerks,* Q. Mr. Macdonald; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 12 [23] 193
- *Colonial Office Copyists,* Q. Mr. Macdonald; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 24 [23] 1225
- *Compulsory Retirement,* Q. Mr. R. Wallace; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 2 [22] 1106
- *Customs and Inland Revenue Officers* (see under title *Customs, Excise, and Inland Revenue*)
- *Diplomatic Service and the Foreign Office Amalgamation,* Q. Sir A. Hayter; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 10 [28] 555
- *District and Parish Councils,* Q. Mr. Storey; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 16 [28] 1237; References to, in Debate on *Supply, July* 30 [27] 1299, &c.
- *Eastern Colonies,* Q. Mr. W. Johnston; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 18 [25] 1347
- *Freemantle's, Sir C., Committee,* Q. Viscount Wolmer; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 5 [22] 1448
- *General Register Office,* Q. Sir R. Temple; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 26 [27] 1012
- *Home Office Clerks and Officials*—References to, in Debate on *Supply, Aug* 17 [28] 1437, &c.
- *Messengers' Holiday,* Q. Mr. Macdonald; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 23 [29] 372
- *Plurality of Appointments,* Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 10 [24] 799
- *Retirement at the Age of Sixty-Seven,* Copy pres. *May* 10 [24] 912
- *Science and Art Department Writers,* Q. Mr. Saunders; A. Mr. Acland *April* 30 [23] 1680
- *Second Division Clerks,* Q. Mr. Anstruther; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Mar* 20 [22] 684; Res. (Mr. Field) *Mar* 29, 919; Qs. Mr. Macdonald; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 12 [23] 192; *April* 19, 847; Q. Mr. J. Havelock-Wilson; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 1 [24] 33
- *Sick Leave,* Q. Mr. Macdonald; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 12 [23] 192; Qs. Mr. J. Rowlands, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 20, 979
- *Superannuation,* Q. Viscount Cranborne; A. Sir C. Russell *April* 6 [22] 1516
  - *Copy ordered and pres., April* 10 [23] 112
- *Superannuation Act, 1884,* Copies pres., *Mar* 29 [22] 999; *April* 2, 1226; *April* 18 [23] 811; *May* 21 [24] 995
- *Treasury New Rules,* Q. Mr. W. Kenny; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 2 [22] 1112
- *Treasury, Surrenders to,* Q. Mr. Forwood; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 17 [23] 634
- *Volunteers,* Q. Viscount Bury; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 31 [25] 33

Civil Service—cont.
- *War Department Writers,* Q. Mr. Macdonald; A. Mr. Woodall *May* 10 [24] 790
- *War Office—Second Division Clerks*—References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, July* 18 [27] 289, &c.
- *Whitehall—Hired Writers,* Q. Mr. Molloy; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 21 [29] 171
- *Working Hours in Public Offices,* Q. Mr. Field; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 16 [23] 466
- *Writers and Abstractors,* Q. Mr. Fisher; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 13 [23] 332; Q. Mr. A. Gibbs; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 26, 1428; Q. Sir F. Dixon-Hartland; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 12 [25] 905; Q. Mr. Conybeare; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 6 [28] 140

Civil Service Estimates (see *Supply*)

Clancy, Mr. J. J., *Dublin Co., N.*
- Army Estimates
  - Main Drainage Scheme, Dublin [26] 1035, 1036, 1037, 1130
  - Netley College—Case of Dr. Corbett [26] 1122, 1126, 1136, 1137
- Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 823, 827, 828; Com. [26] 751, 756
- Financial Relations, Great Britain and Ireland [22] 570; [23] 637, 987
- Ireland
  - Ballina and Killala Light Railway [22] 877
  - Board of Irish Lights and the Briggs Reef Buoy [23] 324, 325
  - Inland Revenue Examination [23] 456
  - Kilbride Rifle Range [23] 446
  - Labourers' Acts [22] 693
  - Labourers' Cottages [23] 327; [25] 1465, 1466
  - Land Acts Inquiry [22] 699
  - London and Dublin Mail Service [23] 205, 206
  - Mayo County New Road [28] 1383
  - Mixed Trains between Dublin and Drogheda [22] 863; [23] 206
  - Railway Consignment Notes [28] 446
  - Railway Rates [28] 446
  - Registration Bill [22] 864
  - Registry of Deeds Office [23] 155
- Land Law (Ireland) and Purchase of Land (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill, Intro. [22] 451
- Queen's Speech—Administration of Ireland [22] 241
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill [22] 582; Com., *cl.* 1 [27] 1068, 1534; *cl.* 3, 1542, 1543, 1544; *cl.* 4, 1552, 1586, 1592; *cl.* 6, 1595, 1596; *New cls.,* 1603, 1604
- Ways and Means — Financial Statement, Com. [23] 521

Clanricarde Estate (see under Ireland)

[*cont.*

Clanricarde, Marquess of
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [28] 953

Clark, Dr. G. B., *Caithness*
- Business of the House [28] 1263; [29] 27
- Caithness Evictions [24] 590
- Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Act Amendment Bill [28] 996; Intro. [22] 786
- Dunnet School Board [27] 1558
- Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Con. [28] 493, 497, 498, 500; Lords Amendts. [29] 285, 286, 301, 309, 311
- Railway and Canal Traffic Bill, Con. [28] 1076
- Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [23] 1024
- Statute Law Revision Bill, Com. [28] 1080, 1351, 1352
- Supply
  - Bahama Lighthouses [28] 1394
  - Bechuanaland, Mashonaland, and Matabeleland [22] 421, 423
  - Colonial Office—South African Telegrams [22] 362, 364
  - Colonisation [29] 106
  - County Courts [22] 377
  - Crofter Commission [29] 86
  - Deer Forest Commission, &c. [22] 792
  - Discussion of [29] 268
  - District Officers [28] 1558
  - Extension of Admiralty Buildings [22] 992
  - Financial Relations [28] 1557
  - Holyhead Harbour [28] 1392
  - House of Commons Clerks [28] 1432
  - House of Commons Offices [22] 351
  - Kitchen and Refreshment Rooms [22] 885, 886; [24] 1297
  - Law Charges—Cordite Dispute [22] 371
  - Lawson's, Mr. J. G., Amendts. [22] 803, 804, 805
  - Learned Societies [28] 1419
  - Nyassaland [29] 90
  - Peterhead Harbour [28] 1396
  - Petitions to the House [22] 355
  - Rating of Government Property [28] 1408, 1409
  - Registrar General [29] 45
  - Science and Art Department [29] 90, 91
  - Scotch Fishery Board—Trawling [29] 60
  - Secretary of Scotland's Office [29] 53
  - Transvaal, British Subjects in [28] 1499, 1500, 1508
  - Uganda [22] 391, 398
- Thurso Slaughter Houses [29] 156
- Tramways (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [28] 1082
- Transvaal [29] 283
- Women's Franchise Bill, Intro. [22] 787

Clarke, Sir E., *Plymouth*
- Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, Con. [27] 1648, 1653
- Chili, British Claims against [24] 39
- Contagious Diseases (Animals) Bill, 2R. [25] 387
- Merchant Shipping Bill, Re-com. [27] 1362; [28] 375

[*cont.*

Clarke, Sir E.—*cont.*
- Naval Dockyards—Labour and Wages, Res. [22] 634, 635
- Period of Qualification and Elections Bill, 2R. [24] 52, 276, 310, 328, 407
- Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [22] 1209, 1488; [23] 1595

Clayton-Bulwer Treaty
- Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Sir E. Harland; As. Sir E. Grey *July* 16 [27] 15

Cleator Moor—Irish National Foresters and Mr. J. F. Kirkconnell
- Qs. Mr. Ainsworth, Mr. J. W. Lowther; As. Mr. G. Russell *May* 10 [24] 760

Cloncurry, Lord
- Alleged Perjury in Dublin Bankruptcy Court [28] 1373

Closure of Debate (*Standing Order 25*)
- Return ordered *July* 26 [27] 1108

Clough, Mr. W. O., *Portsmouth*
- Army Estimates — Warlike and other Stores [26] 1004, 1005, 1006
- Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, Con. [27] 1608, 1612
- Joint Stock Companies' Register Bill, Intro. [22] 676; 2R. [25] 1434

Clubs (see under title *Customs, Excise, and Inland Revenue*)

Clubs Registration (Ireland) Bill
- *c.* Intro., Mr. Field; Read 1° *Mar* 20 [22] 787 [Dropped]

Coal (*Annual Output*)
- Address for Return *June* 8 [25] 760
- Return to be printed *July* 10 [26] 1392

Coal Mines (see under *Mines*)

Coal Mines (Check Weigher) Bill
- *l.* Pres., Earl of Chesterfield; Read 1ª *July* 6 [26] 1063
- Read 2ª *July* 12, 1437
- Com.; Reported, and Re-com. to Standing Com. *July* 16 [27] 3
- Reported *July* 17, 157
- Read 3ª, and passed *July* 23, 655
- *c.* Read 1° *July* 31, 1493
- 2R.; Debate adjourned *Aug* 2, 1662; *Aug* 9 [28] 547; *Aug* 13, 884
- Read 2° *Aug* 14, 1081
- Con. in Com. *Aug* 15, 1149
- As amended, Con.; Read 3°, and passed *Aug* 16, 1354
- *l.* Returned from the Commons agreed to, with an Amendt. *Aug* 17, 1377
- Royal Assent *Aug* 25 [57° & 58° Vic. c. 52]

Coal Mines (Check Weigher) Bill
Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 3 [28] 19

Coal Mines (Check Weigher) Questions (see under *Mines*)

Coastguards (see under *Navy*)

Cobb, Mr. H. P., *Warwick, S.E., Rugby*
- Agriculture, Journal for [27] 378
- Allotments in the Duchy of Lancaster [24] 473
- Cruelty to a Horse—Sentence on G. Ball [24] 1539
- Ex-Chief Constable of Warwickshire [24] 35; [25] 591; [28] 761
- "Hall by the Sea," Margate—Extension of Licence [28] 550
- House of Lords—Rejection of Bills [29] 21
- Incomes of Public Elementary Schools [29] 17
- Jabez Balfour [29] 282
- Parish Councils Ballots [29] 11
- Partridges' Eggs, Sentence for Stealing [25] 406
- Public Elementary School Return [22] 311
- Radway School, Warwickshire [29] 12
- Ratley Elementary School [28] 983
- School Attendance Prizes [23] 845
- Smith's School Charity [25] 1623
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill [28] 1391

"*Cobb* v. *The Great Western Railway Company*"
Q. Sir S. King; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 12 [25] 907

Cochrane, Hon. T. H., *Ayrshire, N.*
- Army Estimates—Militia [26] 835, 847
- Evening Continuation Schools Code, Res. [24] 1501
- Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 624
- Financial Relations [22] 350; [23] 1683
- Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Con., [28] 426, 483, 491, 504, 531, 600, 611, 621, 622, 632
- Naval Reserve [22] 1248
- Scotch Police Pension Fund [24] 806
- Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [22] 1183
- Waltham Abbey Powder Factory Explosions, Res. [24] 1449, 1451

Cockenzie Fishery Provisional Order Bill
c. Intro., Sir G. Trevelyan; Read 1° *April* 6 [22] 1522
Read 2° *June* 4 [25] 388
Reported *June* 12, 991
Read 3°, and passed *June* 13, 1052

[*cont.*

Cockenzie Fishery Provisional Order Bill—cont.
l. Read 1ª *June* 14, 1059
Read 2ª *June* 22 [26] 1
Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *June* 25, 114
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 28, 390
Royal Assent *July* 3
[57° & 58° Vic. c. li]

Coddington, Mr. W., *Blackburn*
- London County Council (General Powers) Bill, Con. [24] 695, 1513
- Rating of Machinery Bill, Intro. [22] 451; 2R. [24] 733

Cohen, Mr. B. L., *Islington, E.*
- Amalgamation of the City and County of London [24] 765
- Army Estimates—War Office Clerks [27] 289
- Atlantic Liners, Alleged Racing by [24] 1397
- Business of the House [25] 71; [28] 779
- Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, 2R. [27] 880; Com. [28] 57, 69, 195, 377, 384, 401; Con., 781, 783
- Finance Bill, Com., *cl.* 1 [25] 106, 362, 363, 598, 606; *cl.* 5, 975, 1106; *cl.* 6, 1261; *cl.* 14 [26] 42; *New cl.*, 735; Con., 1267
- Indian Four Per Cent. Rupee Loan Convention [27] 1584
- London County Council (Tower Bridge Southern Approach) Bill, 2R. [22] 1237; Con. [25] 5
- London Streets and Buildings Bill, Select Com. [22] 1428; Con. [27] 8
- Mount Pleasant Money Order Office [26] 687
- National Telephone Company [28] 1270
- Navy Estimates, Shipbuilding, &c. [23] 288, 289
- Post Office Annual Leave [28] 764
- Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Con. [24] 1647
- Supply—Post Office Expenditure [24] 947
- Thames Conservancy Bill, Instr. to Com. [24] 1384
- Ways and Means — Financial Statement, Com. [23] 515, 1158, 1197

Coinage of Silver
Q. Mr. Sidebotham; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 3 [24] 238

Colchester, Lord
- Religious Instruction in Board Schools, Res. [24] 1506

Coldbath Fields Money Order Office (see under *Post Office*)

COLERIDGE, Hon. B., *Sheffield, Attercliffe*
Merchandise Marks Acts (1887 and 1891) Amendment (Cutlery) Bill, Intro. [22] 786; 2R. [24] 185

Coleridge, Hon. B.—Vacation of Seat on Succession to Peerage (see under *Parliament*)

COLLINGS, Right Hon. J., *Birmingham, Bordesley*
Agricultural Education in Elementary Schools Bill, Intro. [22] 457
Army Estimates—Ordnance Factories [22] 550, 555
Business of the House, Res. [22] 1669, 1674
Enfield and Sparkbrook Factories [22] 1580
Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 666, 670, 673
Forestry [26] 6
Old Age Provident Pensions Bill, 2R. [22] 1346, 1349
Provident Association of London [27] 367

Colonial Officers (Leave of Absence) Bill
l. Pres., Marquess of Ripon; Read 1ª *April* 17 [23] 608
Read 2ª *April* 20, 962
Com.; Reported; Re-com. to Standing Com. *April* 24, 1212
Reported from Standing Com. *May* 1 [24] 18
Read 3ª, and passed *May* 4, 333
c. Read 1° *June* 25 [26] 203
Read 2° *June* 28, 514
Con. in Com.; Reported; Read 3°, and passed *June* 29, 656
l. Returned from the Commons *July* 2, 660
Royal Assent *July* 3
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 17]

Colonial Probates Act, 1892
Copy pres. *July* 24 [27] 896

Colonial Reports (*Annual*) (*Victoria*)
Copy pres. *April* 10 [23] 112

COLONIES
Secretary of State—Marquess of RIPON
Under Secretary of State—Mr. S. BUXTON
British Trade with the Colonies—Ottawa Conference, &c., Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Buxton *May* 8 [24] 607; Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. Buxton *May* 24, 1170; Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Buxton *May* 28, 1422; Q. Mr. Crombie; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 8 [25] 689; Q. Sir R. Temple; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 12, 923; Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 14, 1094; Qs. Colonel H. Vincent; As. Sir W. Harcourt, Mr. Buxton *July* 12
[*cont.*

COLONIES—cont.
British Trade with the Colonies—cont.
[26] 1478; Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. G. Bowles, Mr. J. Lowther; As. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 13, 1572; Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Buxton *Aug* 21 [29] 174; Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 23, 355; Q. Sir C. Dilke; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 24, 423
Civil Service in the Eastern Colonies, Q. Mr. W. Johnston; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 18 [25] 1347
Colonial Office Clerks, Qs. Mr. Macdonald; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 12 [23] 193; *April* 24, 1225
Commercial Treaties, Qs. Sir A. Rollit, Sir M. H. Beach; As. Sir E. Grey *July* 20 [27] 552; Qs. Sir A. Rollit, Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir E. Grey *July* 30, 1238
Death Duties, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 30 [23] 1687; Q. Mr. W. Redmond; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 7 [25] 589; Qs. Sir G. Baden-Powell, Mr. G. Bowles, Mr. J. Lowther, Mr. Arnold-Forster; As. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 12, 924; Qs. Mr. Hogan, Colonel H. Vincent, Sir G. Baden-Powell; As. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 14, 1097; Q. Sir R. Webster; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 22 [26] 18; Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 26, 242; Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Mr. Buxton *July* 10, 1307
Copy pres. *June* 25 [26] 204
Imperial Defence, Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. Goschen; As. Mr. Buxton *June* 28 [26] 424; Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 29, 566; Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. Arnold-Forster; As. Mr. Buxton *July* 12, 1465
Officers and Military Appointments, Q. Mr. Hogan; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 24 [24] 1164
Penny Postage, Qs. Captain Sinclair, Mr. Heaton; As. Mr. A. Morley *July* 31 [27] 1397
Public Trustee, Address for Return *Aug* 16 [28] 1356
Recruiting, Qs. Mr. J. A. Pease, Sir G. Baden-Powell; As. Sir E. Grey *May* 28 [24] 1415
Vote for, Con. in Com. *Aug* 18 [28] 1490
(*See* also under names of Colonies)

Colonisation Board
References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 20 [29] 103, &c.
Crofters (see under SCOTLAND)

COLSTON, Mr. C. E. H. A., *Gloucester, Thornbury*
Budget Proposals [23] 1451
Gibraltar—Frozen Meat Supplies [26] 1469
Volunteers—Capitation Grant [26] 1476

COMBE, Mr. C. H., *Surrey, Chertsey*
Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 664; Com. [26] 761
Income Tax on Imaginary Farming Profits [25] 810
Roscommon County School Accommodation [27] 557

Commercial Treaties
Qs. Sir A. Rollit, Sir M. H. Beach; As. Sir E. Grey *July* 20 [27] 552; Qs. Sir A. Rollit, Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir E. Grey *July* 30, 1238

COMMINS, Dr. A., *Cork Co., S.E.*
Lecarrow Petty Sessional Bench—Roman Catholic Magistrates [26] 239
Small Holdings in Ireland, Res. [23] 420

COMMISSIONER OF WORKS—Mr. H. GLADSTONE

Commissioners of Works Bill
c. Intro., Mr. H. Gladstone; Read 1° *April* 26 [23] 1551
Read 2° *May* 7 [24] 574
Con. in Com.; Reported; Read 3°, and passed *May* 21, 994
l. Read 1ª *May* 28, 1367
Read 2ª *June* 1 [25] 159
Com.; Reported; Re-com. to Standing Com. *June* 5, 395
Reported from Standing Com. *June* 12, 895
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 15, 1205
Returned from the Commons, with Amendts. agreed to *July* 13 [26] 1555
Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 23]

Committals for Trial at West Ham (see under title *Law, &c.*)

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION
Lord President—Earl of ROSEBERY
Vice President—Mr. A. H. D. ACLAND
(See under title *Education*)

Common Jurors Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Parker; Read 1° *May* 1 [24] 140
[Dropped]

Commoners' Rights
Q. Mr. A. C. Morton; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 25 [24] 1262

Commons Act (1876) (Luton Commons)
Paper pres.; to be printed *April* 16 [23] 591

Commons Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Cozens-Hardy; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 454
Withdrawn *April* 25 [23] 1384

Commons Regulation Provisional Order (Luton) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Gardner; Read 1° *May* 9 [24] 748
Read 2° *May* 23, 1131
Reported *June* 5 [25] 495
Read 3°, and passed *June* 6, 543
l. Read 1ª *June* 7, 547
Read 2ª *June* 15, 1205
Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *June* 18, 1337
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 19, 1448
Royal Assent *July* 3
[57° & 58° Vic. c. xliii]

Commons
Select Com. Appointed April 17 [23] 746
Report *May* 7 [24] 574

Companies Act (1862) Amendment Bill
c. Intro., Sir W. Houldsworth; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 452
[Dropped]

Companies and the Stamp Act, 1891
Q. Mr. Fisher; A. Sir W. Harcourt *Aug* 6 [28] 145

Companies' Debentures Registration, &c., Bill
c. Intro., Sir A. Rollit; Read 1° *June* 11 [25] 892
[Dropped]

Companies (Winding-up) Act
Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 7 [25] 571

Compound Householders' Grievances
Q. Sir H. James; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 10 [24] 761; Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 24, 1165

Compulsory Vaccination (see *Vaccination*)

Compulsory Vaccination (Abolition) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Hopwood; Read 1° *Mar* 13 [22] 452
[Dropped]

Conciliation Bills
Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 19 [27] 381

Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill
c. Order for 2R.; Debate adjourned *April* 19 [23] 941; *April* 23, 1201; *April* 24, 1323; *July* 2 [26] 771; *July* 13, 1654
Withdrawn *Aug* 10 [28] 650

Congested Districts Board (see under IRELAND)

Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Bill
c. Motion for Leave, Mr. J. Morley; Read 1° *Aug* 9 [28] 482
Read 2° *Aug* 10, 646
Con. in Com., R.P. *Aug* 13, 878
Con. in Com., and Reported *Aug* 14, 1084
As amended, Con.; Read 3°, and passed *Aug* 15 [28] 1150
l. Read 1ª *Aug* 16, 1215
Read 2ª *Aug* 17, 1374
Com.; Reported, &c.; Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 20 [29] 9
Royal Assent *Aug* 25
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 50]

Congested Districts Board (Ireland) [*Remuneration*]
Con. in Com. *Aug* 13 [28] 888
Res. reported *Aug* 14, 1084

Congo Treaty (see under AFRICA)

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill
c. Intro., Sir W. Harcourt; Read 1° *Mar* 19 [22] 675
Read 2° *Mar* 20, 788
Con. in Com., and reported *Mar* 21, 852
Con. *Mar* 22, 896
Read 3° *Mar* 24, 896
l. Read 1ª (Standing Order dispensed with); Read 2ª; Com. negatived; Read 3ª, and passed *Mar* 26, 900
Royal Assent *Mar* 29, 901
[57° Vic. c. 1]

Consolidated Fund (No. 2) Bill
c. Intro., Sir W. Harcourt; Read 1° *May* 22 [24] 1084
Read 2° *May* 24, 1256
Con. in Com.; Reported *May* 25, 1362
Read 3°, and passed *May* 28, 1502
l. Read 1ª; Read 2ª; Com. negatived; Read 3ª and passed *May* 29, 1507
Royal Assent *June* 1
[57° Vic. c. 7]

Consolidated Fund (No. 3) Bill
c. Intro., Sir W. Harcourt; Read 1° *July* 24 [27] 896
Read 2° *July* 26, 1107
Con. in Com. *July* 27, 1220
Read 3°, and passed *July* 30, 1364
l. Read 1ª; Read 2ª; Com. negatived; Read 3ª, and passed *July* 30, 1236
Royal Assent *July* 31
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 29]

Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill
c. Intro., Sir J. T. Hibbert; Read 1° *Aug* 22 [29] 344
Read 2° *Aug* 23, 388
Con. in Com.; Reported *Aug* 24, 424
Read 3°, and passed *Aug* 25, 424
l. Read 1ª; Read 2ª; Com. negatived; Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 25, 424
Royal Assent *Aug* 25
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 59]

Contagious Disease among the Troops (see under titles *Army* and INDIA)

Contagious Diseases (Animals) (see under *Agriculture, Board of*)

Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts Amendment Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Gardner; Read 1° *June* 26 [26] 319
2R. deferred *July* 6 [26] 1163
Withdrawn *July* 18 [27] 330

Contagious Diseases (Animals) Bill (see *Diseases of Animals Bill*)

Contempt of Court Bill
c. Intro., Mr. M'Cartan; Read 1° *July* 17 [27] 275
[Dropped]

"*Contracting Out*" (see under *Railways* and *Employers' Liability*)

Contracts
Army and Navy (see under those titles)
Government Contracts (see that title)

Convention of Royal Burghs (Scotland) Act (1879) Amendment Bill
c. Intro., Mr. P. Smith; Read 1° *July* 27 [27] 1220
Read 2° *Aug* 7 [28] 368
Con. in Com., R.P. *Aug* 8, 428
Withdrawn *Aug* 10, 651

Convict Prisons (England, &c.)
Copy pres. *Aug* 16 [28] 1355

CONYBEARE, Mr. C. A. V., *Cornwall, Camborne*
- Abstractor Clerks [28] 140
- British Museum (Purchase of Land) Bill, Com. [27] 486
- Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, 2R. [23] 1326
- Diseases of Animals Bill, Com. [28] 878
- Dynamite Prisoners — Reply to Queen's Speech [22] 237
- German Prison Labour—Importation of Goods into England [22] 1458
- House of Commons Accommodation—Select Com. [23] 1066
- House of Commons (Vacating of Seats), Select Com. [26] 1165
- Indian Mints, Closing of [23] 1675
- Level Crossing Fatality at Camborne [25] 27
- Merchant Shipping Bill, Re-com. [27] 1361
- Mining Royalties, Rents, and Wayleaves, Res. [22] 1558
- Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, 2R. [27] 1662, 1663; Con. [28] 547, 649, 878, 880
- Quarter Sessions Bill, Com. [23] 1781
- South African Mails [22] 1461
- Statute Law Revision Bill, Com. [28] 1352
- Supply
  - African Affairs [27] 1332, 1486
  - Houses of Parliament [22] 977, 978, 981
  - Kew Gardens [22] 971, 973, 974
  - Royal Palaces [22] 966, 969, 970
- Transvaal Gold Mining Industry [25] 1630
- Truro and Newquay Junction Railway Bill, Con. [24] 1141, 1143

COOKE, Mr. C. W. R., *Hereford*
- Ashperton and Canon Ffrome National Schools [27] 1129
- Budget Proposals—Spirit Duty [24] 241
- Coopers—Royal Victoria Yard, Deptford [28] 475
- Metropolitan Police, C. Division [22] 690
- Nonconformists—State Grants [28] 477
- Period of Qualification and Elections Bill, 2R. [24] 95; Con., 1639
- Ross Board School [25] 682
- School Alterations [29] 165
- Sporting Telegrams for Newspapers [28] 464
- Supply—Houses of Parliament [22] 978
- Trade and Agricultural Depression, Res. [22] 97

Copyhold (Consolidation) Bill
- *l.* Pres., Lord Herschell; Read 1^a *Mar* 13 [22] 137
- Read 2^a *Mar* 19, 558
- Referred to Joint Com. on Statute Law Revision Bills and Consolidation Bills *April* 17 [23] 608
- Reported *July* 20 [27] 536
- Com. *July* 26, 997
- Amendts. reported *July* 27, 1116
- Read 3^a, and passed *July* 30, 1236

Copyhold (Consolidation) Bill—cont.
- *c.* Read 1° *Aug* 1, 1554
- Read 2° *Aug* 10 [28] 651
- Con. in Com., and Reported *Aug* 13, 882
- As amended, Con.; Read 3°, and passed *Aug* 16, 1354
- *l.* Returned from the Commons *Aug* 17, 1377
- Commons Amendts. con., and agreed to *Aug* 17, 1378
- Royal Assent *Aug* 25
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 46]

Copyright Acts, 1844 to 1866
- Copy pres. *May* 10 [24] 912

Copyright in Canada (see under CANADA)

CORBETT, Mr. A. C., *Glasgow, Tradeston*
- Finance Bill, Debate on [25] 1099
- Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Con. [28] 412
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 3R. [28] 303

Cordite (see under *Army*)

COREA
- *Chino-Japanese War* (see that title)

CORK, Earl of
- Ireland—Murder of a Caretaker [23] 1070, 1563

Corn Returns
- Q. Mr. Rankin; A. Mr. Gardner *June* 28 [26] 453

Cornwall Police Court Procedure (see under *Law, &c.*)

CORNWALLIS, Mr. F. S. W., *Maidstone*
- Army (Annual) Bill, Com. [23] 571
- Army Estimates—Yeomanry [26] 868
- Peers and the New Local Government Act [26] 574

Coroners Act (1887) Amendment Bill
- *c.* Intro., Captain Grice-Hutchinson; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 458
- Withdrawn *June* 28 [26] 515

Corporate Associations (Property) Bill
- *c.* Intro., Mr. Howell; Read 1° *Mar* 30 [22] 1092
[Dropped]

| *cont.*

"*Costa Rica Packet*"

Qs. Sir C. Cameron; As. Sir E. Grey *April* 12 [23] 198; Q. Mr. Hogan; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 20, 971

Petition pres., Obs. The Earl of Jersey, The Earl of Kimberley *April* 19 [23] 813

Q. Sir C. Dilke; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 7 [24] 485; Qs. Mr. Hogan; As. Sir E. Grey *May* 10, 777; *June* 26 [26] 222; *June* 29, 563; Qs. Mr. T. Curran, Mr. Hogan; As. Sir E. Grey *July* 5, 948; Qs. Mr. Hogan; As. Sir E. Grey *July* 12, 1476; *July* 20 [27] 547; *Aug* 7 [28] 244; *Aug* 20 [29] 21

References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 17 [28] 1464, 1472

Cotton Duties in India (see under INDIA)

Cotton Trade (Forty-Eight) Hours Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Maden; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 456

Withdrawn *July* 18 [27] 332

COTTON-JODRELL, Colonel E. T. D., *Cheshire, Wirral*

Army Estimates—Artillery Majors [25] 1033

Hoylake, Casualties to Vessels, at [23] 1664

Wallasey Embankment Bill, 2R. [25] 1452

County Auditors Bill

c. Intro., Sir J. Dorington; Read 1° *June* 26 [26] 319

[Dropped]

County Councillors (Qualification of Women) Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Spicer; Read 1° *April* 17 [23] 747

Withdrawn *July* 19 [27] 488

County Councils

Boundary Committees—Travelling Expenses, Q. Mr. Jacoby; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 4 [25] 286

Breconshire Polling District, Copy pres. *Aug* 16 [28] 1355

Building Bye-Laws, Qs. Mr. Howell, Sir A. Rollit; As. Mr. Asquith, Mr. Speaker *April* 2 [22] 1107; Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 30 [27] 1256; Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Mr. Asquith *July* 30, 1254; *Aug* 10 [28] 553

County of London—Main Roads Expenditure, Q. Mr. Benn; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 8 [25] 685

Duchy of Lancaster and Betterment, Motion for Papers (Earl of Onslow) *June* 13 [26] 1549

Light Railways, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 12 [26] 1488

[*cont.*

County Councils—cont.

London District Surveyors, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 30 [23] 1673

Middlesex Records, Q. Mr. Picton; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 3 [24] 215

National Telephone Company (see under title *Post Office*)

Scotch County Council Deputations to London, Qs. Sir H. Maxwell, Mr. Caldwell, Dr. Macgregor; As. Mr. J. B. Balfour *June* 5 [25] 401

Scotch Statutory Meetings, Q. Mr. A. Cross; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *Mar* 15 [22] 336

Vehicular Lighting Regulations, Q. Mr. Mount; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 23 [23] 1100

Voters' Lists, Preparation of, Q. Mr. Logan; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 22 [26] 6

County Councils Association (Scotland) Expenses Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Renshaw; Read 1° *Mar* 20 [22] 786

Read 2° *April* 9, 1687

Com.; R.P. *April* 11 [23] 170

Com., and Reported *April* 17, 746

As amended, Con.; Read 3°, and passed *April* 18, 811

l. Read 1ª *April* 19, 822

Read 2ª *April* 23, 1069

Com.; Standing Com. negatived *April* 27, 1574

Read 3ª, and passed *April* 30, 1658

Royal Assent *June* 1

[57° Vic. c. 5]

County Courts (see under *Law and Justice and Police*)

County Magistracy (see under *Law, &c.*, sub-heading *Magistracy*)

County of London (see under *Metropolis*)

County Secretaries Superannuation (Ireland) Bill

l. Pres., Lord Castletown; Read 1ª *May* 10 [24] 750

COURTNEY, Right Hon. L. H., *Cornwall, Bodmin*

Behring Sea Award Bill, Com. [22] 1684

Business of the House, Res. [25] 53, 54, 55

Motion for Select Com. [22] 1278

Procedure on the Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Bill, Res. [27] 1430

Finance Bill, Com. *cl.* 1 [24] 1487, 1599; [25] 127, 343; *cl.* 2, 461, 516, 518, 524, 525, 602, 621, 626; *cl.* 3, 719; *cl.* 4, 875; *cl.* 5, 938, 942, 1112, 1121; *cl.* 6, 1242, 1244,

[*cont.*

COURTNEY, Right Hon. L. H.—*cont.*
- Finance Bill—*cont.*
  - 1246, 1257, 1269, 1288, 1289 ; *cl.* 9, 1532, 1540 ; *cl.* 10, 1655, 1660, 1664, 1670 ; *cl.* 13, 1698 ; *cl.* 17 [26] 154, 160 ; *cl.* 18, 196 ; Con., 1244, 1245, 1258, 1261, 1432, 1541, 1603, 1604 ; [27] 35, 45
- Introduction of and Ballotting for Bills [22] 161
- National Gallery Return, Res. [28] 34
- Privilege—Lord Rosebery's Speech at Edinburgh, Res. [22] 606
- Registrar General's Report [24] 598
- Sale of Intoxicating Liquors Bill, Intro. [22] 853
- Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [23] 991, 997, 999, 1031, 1032
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [23] 905 ; Com. [27] 1595
- Von Roemer's Resumption of British Nationality Bill, 2R. [28] 1217
- Ways and Means
  - Financial Statement, Com. [23] 513, 514, 1114, 1121, 1182
  - Res. to authorise Clause 15 of the Finance Bill, Com. [25] 1650

COURTOWN, Earl of
- Ireland—National Federation and Evicted Farms [28] 1366

Cowes Trinity House Employés—Solent Explosion
- Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell ; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 30 [27] 1265

COWPER, Earl
- Aliens Bill, 2R. [27] 144, 146, 156
- Antique Casts at South Kensington Museum [23] 1569

COZENS-HARDY, Mr. H. H., *Norfolk, N.*
- Charitable Trusts Acts Amendment Bill, 2R. [27] 951
- Commons Bill, Intro. [22] 454

CRANBORNE, Viscount, *Rochester*
- Atherington National School [26] 441
- Borstal Convict Prison, Governor of [29] 157
- Bullinaria, H., Case of [29] 158
- Business of the House [22] 268 ; [29] 27
- Chimney Sweepers Bill, Com. [25] 888
- Church Patronage Bill, 2R. [24] 151, 152
- Civil Service Superannuation [22] 1516
- Cleckheaton Schools [27] 19, 1137
- Convict Prisons Officials [25] 1089
- Darwen Trinity Infants' School [27] 1257
- Dockyard Pensions [24] 220 ; [25] 679
- Education Code, Res. [23] 947, 953
- Education Department and School Grants [26] 1473 ; [27] 1138

CRANBORNE, Viscount—*cont.*
- Finance Bill, Com., *cl.* 14 [26] 28 ; *cl.* 15, 72, 74 ; *New cls.*, 639, 734, 736, 739, 740 ; Con., 1316, 1317, 1387
- Gymnastic Apparatus for Rural Schools [25] 804
- Hay National Schools [29] 25
- Prize Courts Bill, 2R. [27] 1105
- Secondary Education Commission [22] 1583
- Supply — Education Department Requirements, &c. [22] 382, 386 ; [29] 190, 191, 195, 196
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Con. [27] 1069, 1183
- Uzmaston School [25] 1465
- Wakefield, St. John's School [29] 17
- Wales
  - Cathedrals [25] 300, 803 ; [26] 442
  - Nonconformist Ministers [26] 442
- "Warned" Schools [22] 146, 344 ; [27] 1138
- Wilds Birds Protection Act (1880) Amendment Bill, Com. [23] 1547, 1548

CRANBROOK, Earl of
- Antique Casts at South Kensington Museum [23] 1573
- Education Code (1894), Res. [23] 821
- Endowed Schools Act, 1869, &c. (Scheme for the County of Anglesey), Res. [23] 597
- Endowed Schools Act, 1869, &c. (Scheme for the County of Flint), Res. [23] 604
- Licensing Law Amendment Bill, 2R. [26] 319
- Luccombe and Stoke-Pero, School Accommodation at [23] 441
- Pistols Bill, Com. [24] 7, 13, 15
- Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Com. [26] 110

CRAWFORD, Mr. D., *Lanark, N.E.*
- Bothwell Miners' Disturbance and the Police [28] 767, 995
- Check-Weighers in Mines [25] 293
- Coal Strike in Scotland [28] 554
- Local Government (Scotland) Bill — Motion for Leave [23] 1636 ; 2R. [24] 1024 ; Con. [28] 526, 528, 545, 577, 609, 624
- Rosehall Colliery Checkweighing Dispute [24] 218
- Scotch School Books [23] 1081
- Secondary and Technical Education in Scotland [25] 689
- Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [22] 1176 ; [23] 1604
- Tuberculosis Commission Report [28] 767
- Uganda Papers [22] 1581
- Warren Hastings Island, Reported Wreck off [22] 1568
- Workmen's Houses (Tenure) Bill, Res. [22] 787

CREAN, Mr. E., *Queen's Co., Ossory*
- Congested Districts Board [28] 133
- Cork Street Sunday Preaching [22] 1518
- Industries for Leitrim—Mr. Tottenham's Offer [28] 133
- Labourers' Cottages, Roscrea [23] 1577

[*cont.*

CREMER, Mr. W. R., *Shoreditch, Haggerston*
- Beaconsfield's, Lord, Statue, Decoration of [23] 980
- Behring Sea Arbitration, Cost of [24] 236; [27] 1572
- Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, 2R. [23] 1326; Con. [27] 1613, 1643, 1644, 1653; [28] 406, 408
- Building Societies (No. 3) Bill, 2R. [24] 332
- Chisels, Fraudulently-Marked—Seizure of at Leith [29] 347
- House of Commons Waiters' Wages [24] 233
- Liberator Building Society [29] 380
- Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, 2R. [23] 1335
- Mining Royalties, Rents, and Wayleaves, Res. [22] 1562
- Navy—"Victoria" Disaster [22] 731
- Parliament — Kitchen and Refreshment Rooms, Motion for Select Com. [22] 784
- Period of Qualification and Elections Bill [23] 395
- St. Katherine's Hospital [27] 1571
- Supply
  - Kitchen and Refreshment Rooms [22] 884, 885
  - Post Office [29] 120
  - Stationery Tenders [28] 1580

CRILLY, Mr. D., *Mayo, N.*
- Bishopric of Bristol Act (1884) Amendment Bill, 2R. [25] 1724

Crimean and Indian Veterans' Pensions (see under *Army*)

Criminal Court of Appeal (see under *Law and Justice and Police*)

Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act (1887) Repeal Bill
- *c.* Intro., Colonel Nolan; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 450
- Read 2° *April* 18 [23] 749
- Com.; R.P. *April* 20, 1067
- [Dropped]

Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act (1887) Repeal Bill
- Q. Mr. J. Redmond; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 19 [23] 859

Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act (1887) Repeal (No. 2) Bill
- *c.* Intro., Mr. Webb; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 452
- [Dropped]

Criminals, Identification of (see under *Law, &c.*)

Crimping (see under *Merchant Shipping*)

Crofters (see under SCOTLAND)

Crofters Act Amendment Bills
- Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Mr. Speaker, Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 1 [24] 40; Q. Mr. Weir; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 10, 811; Qs. Mr. Weir, Dr. Macgregor; As. Sir W. Harcourt *Aug* 10 [28] 562; *Aug* 13, 771; Qs. Mr. Weir, Dr. Clark, Mr. Tomlinson, Dr. Macgregor; As. Mr. Speaker, Sir W. Harcourt *Aug* 14, 996
- ***Leaseholders,*** Q. Dr. Macgregor; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 1 [24] 42

Crofters Acts (Inclusive of Leaseholders) Bill
- *c.* Intro., Dr. Clark; Read 1° *Aug* 14 [28] 1084
- [Dropped]

Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Act (1886) Amendment Bill
- *c.* Intro., Dr. Clark; Read 1° *Mar* 20 [22] 786
- [Dropped]

Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Acts Amendment Bill
- *c.* Intro., Sir W. Wedderburn; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 454
- [Dropped]

Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Acts Amendment (County of Bute) Bill
- *c.* Intro., Sir C. Cameron; Read 1° *April* 4 [22] 1379
- 2R.; Debate adjourned *April* 27 [23] 1636
- [Dropped]

Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Bill
- *c.* Intro., Sir G. Trevelyan; Read 1° *June* 22 [26] 104
- 2R. deferred *July* 30 [27] 1361; *Aug* 1, 1553
- Withdrawn *Aug* 10 [28] 651

Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Bill
- Obs. Dr. Macgregor *July* 30 [27] 1364

CROMBIE, Mr. J. W., *Kincardineshire*
- Aberdeen University Library [24] 1398
- Canadian Cattle Importation [23] 1084
- Disestablishment [29] 149
- Fishing Boats Lights [24] 203
- House of Commons Ventilation [28] 1380
- Leaving Certificate Examiners in Scotland [25] 1622
- Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Lords Amendts. [29] 296, 300
- Mala Real Portugueza Company [29] 345

[*cont.*

CROMBIE, Mr. J. W.—*cont.*
  Marking of Foreign Meat [23] 25
  Ottawa Conference [25] 689
  Secondary Education in Scotland [24] 1266
  Standing Committee (Scotland) [22] 1153, 1158; [29] 172
  Steam Trawlers (Scotland) Bill, Intro. [23] 1638; 2R. [24] 746, 1679, 1680
  Supply
    Education in Scotland [29] 238
    Trawling [29] 57

Cromwell's Statue in the Palace of Westminster
  Qs. Mr. Everett, Mr. Darling; As. Mr. H. Gladstone *July* 12 [26] 1483; Q. Mr. Everett; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *Aug* 20 [29] 21

CROSFIELD, Mr. W., *Lincoln*
  British South Africa Company in Marotsiland [23] 1662
  Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, Con. [27] 1641
  Kaba Rega [25] 906
  London Parks—Sand Heaps for Children [27] 1405
  Parochial Electors (Registration Acceleration) Bill, Com. [26] 1154
  Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Com., [24] 1096
  Salem, Criminal Appeals at [27] 13
  Wallasey Embankment Bill, 2R. [25] 1455

CROSS, Mr. A., *Glasgow, Camlachie*
  Evening Continuation Schools Code, Res. [24] 1497
  Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs [24] 1261
  Flash Point Oil [24] 1261
  Heritable Securities (Scotland) Bill, Intro. [24] 140; Re-com. [26] 512
  Scotch County Council Statutory Meetings [22] 336
  Scotch Education Code, Res. [24] 908
  Smaller Dwellings (Scotland) Bill, Intro. [22] 459; 2R. [24] 746
  Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [22] 1169

CROSS, Viscount
  Army (Annual) Bill [23] 817
  Bishopric of Bristol Act (1884) Amendment Bill, 2R. [26] 388; Reports of Amendts., 940
  Endowed Schools Act, 1869, and Amending Acts, &c., Motion for Address [25] 1437
  India
    Cotton Duties [27] 512, 513
    Legislative Councils, Address for Return [23] 1385
    Mints, Closing of [26] 550
    Salt Laws [23] 319

CROSS, Viscount—*cont.*
  Industrial Schools Bill, 3R. [27] 790
  Limitation of Actions Bill, 2R. [23] 445; 3R. [25] 393
  Locomotive Threshing Engines Bill, 2R. [26] 774; Com., 938
  Pistols Bill, Com. [24] 10, 11
  Quarries Bill, 2R. [26] 1181
  Quarter Sessions (Midsummer) Bill, Com. [23] 173, 174

Crown Estates (see under *Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues of the Crown*)

Crown Lands Bill
c. Intro., Sir J. T. Hibbert; Read 1° *Mar* 13 [22] 255
  Petitions *Mar* 19, 588
  Read 2°, and com. to Select Com. *April* 10 [23] 111
  Reported from Select Com. *Aug* 1 [27] 1554
  Con. in Com. (Re-com.); Reported; Read 3°, and passed *Aug* 3 [28] 114
l. Read 1ª *Aug* 6, 118
  Read 2ª *Aug* 13, 653
  Com.; Reported *Aug* 14. 892
  Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 16, 1166
  Royal Assent *Aug* 25
    [57° & 58° Vic. c. 43]

Cruelty to Animals (see *Animals*)

Cruelty to Children (see *Children*)

CUBITT, Hon. H., *Surrey, Reigate*
  Rotten Row, Accidents in [26] 230

CURRAN, Mr. T., *Sligo, S.*
  "Costa Rica Packet" [26] 948
  Mixed Trains in Ireland [25] 1080

CURRAN, Mr. T. B., *Kilkenny*
  Municipal Franchise (Ireland) Amendment Bill, Intro. [22] 450

Currency
  British Honduras, Qs. Mr Weir; As. Mr. Buxton *May* 1 [24] 45; *May* 25, 1267
  German Silver Commission, Q. Mr. Chaplin; A. Sir E. Grey *Mar* 13 [22] 155
  Gold and Silver Commission Report, Q. Sir W. Houldsworth; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 23 [23] 1089
  Gold and Silver Question, Res. (Mr. S Smith) *May* 4 [24] 417
  Indian Mints (see under title INDIA)
  Silver Coin and the Bank of England, Q. Sir F. Dixon-Hartland; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 14 [25] 1099
  Silver Question and the Eastern Trade, Q. Mr. Whiteley; A. Sir W. Harcourt *Mar* 15 [22] 346

[cont.

CURZON, Hon. G. N., *Lancashire, Southport*
- Afghanistan—Sir M. Durand's Mission—Papers [22] 336
- Burmese Frontier—Anglo-Chinese Convention, &c. [24] 217 ; [27] 167
- Canada, Copyright in [24] 238
- Egypt—Zobehr Pasha [22] 342
- Fire Brigades (Exemption from Jury Service) Bill, Intro. [22] 457
- Indian Civil Service Examinations [22] 335
- Period of Qualification and Elections Bill, 2R. [24] 312, 316
- Siam [24] 1310 ; [27] 166
- Supply—Foreign Affairs [27] 1343
- Vacation of Seat on Succession to Peerage, Motion for Select Com. [26] 420, 421, 422

CUSTOMS, EXCISE, AND INLAND REVENUE
- *Appropriations in Aid*, Q. Mr. G. Bowles ; A. Sir W. Harcourt *Mar* 13 [22] 152
- *Auctioneers' Licences*, Q. Mr. W. Isaacson ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 18 [25] 1349
- *Berwickshire Inland Revenue Business*, Q. Mr. Jacks ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 31 [27] 1396
- *Boatmen, Customs*, Qs. Mr. Hopwood, Mr. Hanbury, Mr. Kearley ; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 18 [25] 1341 ; Q. Mr. K. Hardie ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 26 [26] 225 ; Qs. Mr. Macdonald ; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 26, 232 ; *July* 3, 784
- *Budget Proposals* (see under title *Ways and Means*)
- *Canadian Tea Duties* (see under title CANADA)
- *Chisels, Fraudulently-Marked*, Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett ; As. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 16 [28] 1222 ; Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. Cremer ; As. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 3 [29] 346 ; Q. Mr. Macdonald ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 23, 387 ; Q. Colonel H. Vincent ; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 24, 421
- *Clubs and Excise Licences*, Q. Mr. Dodd ; A. Sir W. Harcourt *Mar* 30 [22] 1008
- "*Corkage*" *at Temperance Hotels*, Q. Mr. Bartley ; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 2 [22] 1114
- *County of London and the Inland Revenue Establishment Licences*, Q. Mr. Benn ; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 7 [25] 590
- *Customs Department—Sick Pay—Case of A. D. Murray*, Q. Mr. Caldwell ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 10 [24] 776
- *Customs Messengers*, Q. Mr. Macdonald ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 10 [24] 764
- *Customs Outdoor Officers*, Q. Mr. Flynn ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 3 [28] 8 ; Q. Mr. Harrington ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 7, 246 ; Q. Mr. T. M. Healy ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 16, 1234
- *Customs Outport Clerks*, Q. Mr. S. Wallace ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 16 [27] 20
- *Customs Service Promotions*, Q. Mr. M. Austin ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 14 [28] 994

CUSTOMS, EXCISE, AND INLAND REVENUE—cont.
- *Customs Statistical Department Allowances, &c.*, Q. Mr. Grove ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Mar* 30 [22] 1006
- *Death Duties* (see under title *Ways and Means*)
- *Deeds, Stamping*, Q. Mr. M'Cartan ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 23 [23] 1091
  - *Irish Questions* (see under title IRELAND)
- *Dog Licence Prosecutions in Scotland* (see under title SCOTLAND)
- *Duchy of Lancaster Land Taxes*, Q. Mr. Hare ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 21 [25] 1622
- *Excise Appointments—Age of Qualification*, Q. Mr. Hopwood ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 3 [28] 9
- *Financial Statement* (see under title *Ways and Means*)
- *Foreign Goods, Importation of*, Q. Colonel H. Vincent ; A. Mr. R. T. Reid *May* 31 [25] 33 ; Q. Colonel Hill ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 31, 42 ; Q. Mr. Macdona ; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 7, 564 ; Qs. Mr. Macdona, Mr. Stuart-Wortley ; As. Mr. Bryce *June* 8, 687 ; Q. Colonel H. Vincent ; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 29 [26] 568
- *German Prison-Made Goods* (see that title)
- *German Spirits—Importation of into Ireland*, Qs. Mr. Field, Mr. T. M. Healy ; As. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 1 [24] 45 ; Q. Mr. Field ; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 10, 797
- *Gun Licences and Volunteers*, Q. Mr. Wingfield-Digby ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 27 [23] 1587

- *Income Tax*
  - *Assessment—Board School Teachers*, Q. Mr. Darling ; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 7 [24] 481
  - *Assessments Return*, Q. Mr. Bartley ; A. Sir W. Harcourt *Mar* 30 [22] 1009
  - *Building Societies*, Q. Mr. Leon ; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 31 [25] 34
  - *Commissioners*, Q. Colonel H. Vincent ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 2 [22] 1100 ; Qs. Mr. Woods ; As. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 14 [25] 1098 ; *June* 21, 1646 ; Q. Mr. Ballantine ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 16 [28] 1236
  - *Debate on*, on Motion for Com. of *Supply*, *Mar* 30 [22] 1043
  - *Imaginary Farming Profits*, Q. Mr. Combe ; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 11 [25] 810
  - *Lighthouses*, Q. and Obs. Lord Stanley of Alderley, Lord Playfair *July* 9 [26] 1772
  - *Minors*, Q. Mr. B. Hoare ; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 12 [23] 219
  - *Overpaid*, Q. Mr. Biddulph ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 3 [26] 797 ; Qs. Mr. Renshaw, Mr. Biddulph ; As. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 10, 1310
  - *Relief Certificate*, Q. Mr. Biddulph ; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 21 [25] 1645
  - *Tithe Act*, Q. Mr. Farquharson ; A. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 17 [27] 177
  - *Valuation*, Q. Mr. Brunner : A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 25 [26] 133

[*cont.*

[*cont.*

CUSTOMS, EXCISE, AND INLAND REVENUE—cont.
- *Inhabited House Duty*, Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 9 [26] 1195
- *Inland Revenue Affidavits*, Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 28 [26] 456; Q. and Obs. Duke of Rutland, Earl of Rosebery *Aug* 13 [28] 654; Motion for Return, agreed to *Aug* 14, 891
- *Inland Revenue Officers and the Finance Bill*, Q. Mr. T. Healy; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 21 [25] 1646
- *Inland Revenue Officers' Salaries*, Q. Mr. Hayden; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 7 [24] 481
- *Inland Revenue Officials, Charges against*, Q. Mr. Hayden; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 3 [24] 241; Q. Mr. Tully; A. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 16 [27] 31
- *Irish Questions* (see under title IRELAND)
- *Land Tax Commissioners and Poor Law Boundaries*, Q. Colonel Warde; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 7 [25] 588
- *Land Tax Commissioners in Wales*, Q. Mr. Herbert Lewis; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 11 [25] 810
- *Licence Fees—Retail Licensed Victuallers*, Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 10 [24] 810
- *Licences, Occasional*, Q. Sir W. Lawson; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 19 [25] 856
- *Plate Duties*, Qs. Baron F. de Rothschild, Mr. J. Rowlands; As. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 8 [24] 607
- *Scotch Questions* (see under title SCOTLAND)
- *Stamp Act, 1891—Companies*, Q. Mr. Fisher; A. Sir W. Harcourt *Aug* 6 [28] 145
- *Stamp Duty, Compounding for*, Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 19 [27] 383; *July* 27, 1143
- *Tradesmen's Licences*, Q. Mr. Combe; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 22 [29] 282
- *Warehousing Code*, Q. Mr. P. Smith; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 8 [25] 688

Cycles
- *Accidents*, Qs. Mr. R. Shaw, Lord R. Churchill; As. Mr. Asquith *May* 28 [24] 1409
- *Registration of*, Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 30 [27] 1263
- *Regulations*, Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 24 [27] 796

CYPRUS
- *Administration*, Q. Admiral Field; A. Mr. Buxton *July* 30 [27] 1259
- *Cape Andrea Lights*, Qs. Admiral Field, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Mr. Bryce *July* 30 [27] 1260
- *Grigsby, Dr.—Visit to England*, Q. Mr. Baldwin; A. Mr. Buxton *May* 3 [24] 224; References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *July* 31 [27] 1490, &c.
- *Lights on the Coast*, Q. Admiral Field; A. Mr. Buxton *Aug* 9 [28] 442

Dairy Produce Adulteration—Select Committee
- Qs. Mr. Field, Mr. Channing; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 10 [24] 793; Q. Mr. Kearley; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 28, 1391
- Committee ordered *May* 29 [24] 1635

DALRYMPLE, Sir C., *Ipswich*
- Rev. J. Herklees [22] 1441
- Volunteer Decoration [26] 135

Daly, John (see under *Law and Justice and Police*)

DALZIEL, Mr. J. H., *Kirkcaldy, &c.*
- Business of the House [22] 326, 1633, 1671; [29] 28
- Friday Sitting [24] 312
- Introduction of and Ballotting for Bills [22] 136
- Land Values, Taxes on [23] 1103
- Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Lords Amendts. [29] 288, 305
- Public Libraries (Scotland) Bill, Intro. [23] 748; 2R., 1383; Com. [24] 199
- Railway Rates [25] 907
- Saxe-Coburg, Duke of (Annuity), Res. [23] 1063
- Scotland
  - Home Rule, Res. [22] 1287, 1303
  - Lord Rosebery's Visit to Edinburgh [22] 349
  - Police, Cost of [23] 978
  - School Books [22] 438, 682
- Supply
  - House of Lords [29] 266, 269, 270
  - Parliamentary Papers [28] 1432
  - Post Office [29] 263
  - Report, Postponement of [29] 123
  - Scotch Miners' Strike [28] 1529
  - Scotch Votes [28] 1556
  - Transvaal, British Subjects in [28] 1504
- Ways and Means, Com. [29] 125, 126, 127, 129, 133, 143

DANE, Mr. R. M., *Fermanagh, N.*
- American Mail Route [23] 845
- Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, Con. [27] 1650, 1659
- English Boats Made in Germany [24] 42
- Falkirk Cattle Weighing Machines [24] 456; [25] 13
- Halfpenny Postage Rate [23] 847
- Indian Opium Commission [24] 590
- Ireland
  - Annaly Eviction Dispute [23] 1226, 1582
  - Beleek Floods [27] 1578
  - Belfast—Deeds Stamping [23] 831
  - Boycotting [23] 1581; [24] 765
  - Cattle Weighbridges [23] 1420; [24] 26, 455
  - Cavan Land Commission Appeals [24] 1154

[*cont.*

DANE, Mr. R. M.—*cont.*

- Ireland—*cont.*
  - Clondelara Outrages [24] 215
  - Cork Murder [23] 1447
  - Deportation of Irish Paupers from Scotland [24] 583, 1544; [25] 288
  - District Registrars and the Finance Bill [25] 589
  - Dromod Dispensary Medical Officer [24] 1271
  - Dublin Law Courts—Press Accommodation [23] 459
  - Enniskillen Post Office [23] 969; [25] 163
  - Father Humphreys and the Evicted Tenants Bill [24] 802
  - Fisheries, South Coast [23] 615
  - Inniskilling Fusiliers, Quartermaster [23] 1420
  - Killybegs Pier [23] 614; [24] 1184, 1401; [28] 240
  - Land-Grabbing Denunciations [24] 759, 801
  - Law Reports and the House of Lords Library [23] 1435
  - Level Crossings [23] 969
  - Madden Estate—Notice of Evictions [23] 1580
  - Mail Contract [24] 604
  - Malicious Injuries to Cattle [25] 308, 681
  - Moonlighting Outrages [23] 1444
  - O'Connor, Mr. M. W. [23] 848
  - Orange Disturbances in County Antrim [23] 850
  - Perjury in Eviction Proceedings [23] 968
  - Phœnix Park, Cricket in [24] 1395
  - Police, Strength of [23] 1444
  - Publicans as Magistrates [25] 674
  - Rathcline Evictions [23] 829
  - Registration of Titles [23] 1666; [24] 594
  - Sligo, Leitrim, and Northern Counties Railway [23] 1430
  - Small Holdings, Res. [23] 406
  - Strabane-Lifford Road [25] 13
- Law Library, Four Courts (Ireland) Bill, Com. [23] 588
- Public Works Loans Bill, 3R. [25] 493
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill [23] 911, 914, 915, 916; [24] 39

Daniel's Charity, Swanscombe

- Q. Mr. Howell; A. Mr. F. S. Stevenson *Aug* 6 [28] 142

Danish Smokeless Powder

- Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 24 [24] 1175

Danube, Mouths of

- Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir E. Grey *Mar* 15 [22] 341

DARLING, Mr. C. J., *Deptford*

- Anarchist Placards [27] 562
- Business of the House [27] 287
- Coldbath Fields Money Order Office [28] 20

DARLING, Mr. C. J.—*cont.*

- Contagious Diseases (Animals) Bill, 2R. [25] 387
- Coopers' Wages at Deptford [28] 265
- Cork Murder [23] 1106
- Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill [23] 224
- Finance Bill, Com., *cl.* 2 [25] 453, 475, 490, 491, 525, 527, 528; *cl.* 5, 1150; *cl.* 17 [26] 146; *cl.* 29, 492, 499; Con. [27] 64, 109, 110
- Government Contracts—Pencils [23] 975
- Greenwich District Board [26] 1475
- Income Tax Assessments [24] 481
- Irish Protestant Police Officers [28] 27
- Judges at Race Meetings [25] 692
- Law Officers of the Crown Salaries [26] 695
- Limerick Emergency Man, Alleged Shooting by [23] 330
- Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister [23] 340
- Metropolis Local Management (St. Paul's, Deptford) Bill [24] 332
- Naval Pensions—Case of Saxon [23] 1074
- Open Spaces at Deptford [26] 1475
- Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Con. [24] 1642, 1648
- Railways—Workmen's Cheap Tickets [24] 487
- Registration Bill [22] 865
- Registration Expenses [24] 47
- Sale of Goods Act (1893) [23] 983
- Seamen, Cruelty to, on the "Balkannah" [23] 22
- Slave Trade in Zanzibar [24] 602
- South Kensington Museum—Antique Casts [24] 227
- Statue of Oliver Cromwell in the Palace of Westminster [26] 1483
- Supply—House of Commons Dinners [24] 1297
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Com. [27] 1497
- Transvaal—Commandeering [25] 1079; [26] 17, 127, 240, 449, 684, 686
- Treasury Grants in Lieu of Local Rates [24] 798
- Volunteer Long Service Medals [25] 1085
- Welsh Church Revenues [24] 589

Darlington—Accident to Children

- Q. Mr. H. F. Pease; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 8 [24] 599

Dartmoor Ponies, Disease among

- Q. Mr. Mildmay; A. Mr. Gardner *May* 7 [24] 467

Dartmoor Prison Officials—Married Quarters

- Q. Mr. Luttrell; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 12 [25] 898

DARWIN, Major L., *Staffordshire, Lichfield*
Aliens and British Charities [25] 1215
Army Estimates
  Employment of Reserve Soldiers [25] 1037
  Promotion from the Ranks [25] 1007, 1010
  Soldiers' Boxes, &c. [26] 1010
  Warlike and other Stores [26] 1009
  War Office Salaries [27] 293, 297
Business of the House, Res. [22] 1653, 1655
Campden Trust [26] 946
Christ's Hospital [22] 1430
Finance Bill, Com., *cl.* 6 [25] 1306, 1395; *New cls.* [26] 626, 629, 632, 633
Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Con. [28] 522, 523, 533, 537
Supply
  Burlington House [24] 971
  Ordnance Survey [24] 986
  Railway Companies and the Board of Trade [28] 1516

DAVENPORT, Mr. W. B., *Cheshire, Macclesfield*
Army Estimates
  Clothing [26] 994, 995
  Newspaper Advertisements [26] 973
  Yeomanry [26] 869
Business of the House [23] 428
Commissioners of Works Bill, 2R. [24] 574
Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill, 2R. [26] 1654
Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts Amendment Bill, 2R. [26] 1164
Liquor Traffic (Local Veto) Bill [27] 385
Mussel Scalps (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [26] 875
Navy—Black Handkerchiefs [25] 419
Parochial Electors (Registration Acceleration) Bill, Com. [26] 1153, 1156
Savings Banks (Societies) Bill, Com. [25] 1163, 1315
Silk Trade, Res. [23] 425, 428
Smaller Dwellings (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [24] 746

DAVIES, Mr. W. Rees, *Pembrokeshire*
Established Church (Wales) Bill, Motion for Leave [23] 1718
Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, Intro. [23] 1637

Death Certificates, Inaccurate
Q. Mr. Hopwood; A. Sir W. Foster *May* 1 [24] 34

Death Duties (see under *Ways and Means*)

Death Duties in Foreign Countries
Qs. Mr. Goschen, Sir G. Baden-Powell; As. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 30 [23] 1687

Deaths (*Starvation, &c.*)
Address for Return *June* 7 [25] 668

Debenture Bonds, Registration of
Q. Mr. Barran; A. Sir J. Rigby *May* 3 [24] 237

Declaration of Paris
Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir C. Russell *Mar* 15 [22] 345

Deeds, Stamping (see under titles *Customs, Excise, and Inland Revenue* and under IRELAND)

Deep Sea Fisheries (Ireland) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Mains; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 453
[Dropped]

De La Rue Stamp Contract
Copy pres. *Aug* 16 [28] 1355

DE MAULEY, Lord
Navy, State of [24] 444

DENBIGH, Earl of
Merchandise Marks Act (1887) Amendment Bill, Pres. [24] 1367; 2R. [25] 764; Com., 1334; Select Com. [26] 3

DENMAN, Lord
Women's Suffrage Bill, Pres. [24] 749; 2R. [27] 535

Deptford Open Spaces
Q. Mr. Darling; A. Mr. E. Robertson *July* 12 [26] 1475

Deptford Refrigerators
Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. Gardner *Aug* 7 [28] 247

Deptford Royal Victoria Yard (see under *Navy*)

Derby Day Adjournment (see under *Parliament—Sittings and Adjournments*)

Derby Polling Districts
Copy pres. *May* 8 [24] 692

Derelict Land in Essex (see under ESSEX)

Derelict Vessels (Reports) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Macdona; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 461
Read 2° *April* 30 [23] 1784
Con. in Com., R.P. *May* 1 [24] 139
Com. deferred *May* 2 [24] 199
[Dropped]

Derelicts
Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 17 [27] 174
Atlantic, Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Sir E. Grey *Mar* 16 [22] 444; Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Mr. Mundella *Mar* 30, 1004, 1007; Obs. Mr. Macdona *Mar* 30, 1059; Qs. Sir J. Leng, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *April* 2, 1100
Committee's Report, Qs. Mr. Macdona; As. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 2 [27] 1568; *Aug* 24 [29] 417
Derelicts and Obstructions in Rivers, Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 28 [26] 444
Flamborough Head, Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 23 [27] 668
North Sea, Qs. Mr. Macdona, Mr. Tomlinson; As. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 23 [29] 378

DEVONSHIRE, Duke of
Aliens Bill, 2R. [27] 151
Boards of Conciliation Bill, 2R. [26] 386, 387
Cambridge Corporation Bill, 3R. [25] 1324
Finance Bill, 2R. [27] 956
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [28] 893

DE WORMS, Right Hon. Baron H., *Liverpool, East Toxteth*
Matabeleland Affairs, Papers Relating to [22] 147
Swaziland [22] 146; [23] 863, 1428; [24] 223
Woolwich Ordnance Factories—Piecework [24] 763

DIAMOND, Mr. C., *Monaghan, N.*
Barony Constables in Monaghan County [23] 1672
Cambridge Corporation Bill, Con. [24] 357, 358
Cardiff Corporation Bill, Con. [26] 673
"Escaped Nun" Prosecution at Glasgow [23] 1669
Kensington Local Examinations [27] 550
Labour Commission — Assistant Commissioners' Reports [22] 338
Post Office—Inland Branch [22] 1513
Scotch Education Code [24] 372

DIGBY, Mr. J. K. WINGFIELD-, *Dorset, N.*
Army Estimates
  Volunteers [26] 889
  Yeomanry [26] 879
Business of the House [23] 428
Finance Bill, Com. [25] 107; [26] 34, 612
Moss Litter for Army Horses [25] 24
Returning Officers at Local Government Elections [25] 23
2nd Battalion Dorset Regiment [23] 1587
Silk Trade, Res. [23] 428
Supply—Education Department and Voluntary Schools [22] 828
Volunteers and Gun Licences [23] 1587
Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 1298, 1299

DILKE, Right Hon. Sir C. W., *Gloucester, Forest of Dean*
Anglo-Belgian Agreement [24] 1274; [25] 29, 171, 693, 1082, 1092, 1472; [27] 378; [28] 1251
Anglo-Italian Convention [25] 312
Army and Navy Defensive Preparations, Res. [22] 462, 483, 507
British East Africa Company [29] 377
Business of the House [22] 1521; [26] 959; [27] 282, 283, 286; [28] 1269; Motion for Select Com. [22] 1264, 1268, 1271, 1275, 1276
Cambridge Corporation Bill, Con. [24] 360
Canadian Election Dispute [22] 1453
Cavalry Horses [26] 788
Chitral Affairs [25] 420, 688
Colonies, British Trade with [29] 423
"Costa Rica Packet" [24] 485
Derelict Land in Essex [25] 1355
East India Revenue Accounts, Com. [28] 1297
Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, 2R. [27] 912, 938, 939
Finance Bill, Com. [25] 1654
Franco-Congolese Agreement [28] 1251
Great Western and Midland Railway Companies Bill, 2R. [27] 538, 540, 545
Hyde Park Trees [24] 1006
Labour Minister Bill, 2R. [24] 175
Local Government Act—Overseers and Highway Surveyors [22] 344
London Streets and Buildings Bill, Instr. to Com. [25] 1545; [26] 115; Con. [27] 12, 13
Madagascar—United States Consul [22] 315
Madras and Bombay Commands [22] 140
Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, 2R. [23] 1375; Com. [28] 871, 1004, 1041, 1042, 1043, 1044, 1045, 1046, 1047
Moveable Dwellings Bill [29] 387
New Battleships Launched in 1893 [22] 560
Newfoundland
  French Treaties [24] 36
  Ministerial Crisis [22] 1581

[*cont.*

DILKE, Right Hon. Sir C. W.—*cont.*
Niger Company's Territories, Trade in [25] 300, 1339
Nyassaland and the Oil Rivers Protectorate [25] 180
Parochial Electors (Registration Acceleration) Bill, 2R. [24] 915, 917; Com. [26] 1160, 1161
Period of Qualification and Elections Bill, Intro. [23] 378, 388; 2R. [24] 74, 80, 86, 298
Pauper School Children Inquiry [29] 421
Service Franchise [23] 842
Sierra Leone, Defence of [27] 1002
South African Convention [27] 797

Supply
British Central Africa—Protectorate [29] 337
Diplomatic and Consular Buildings [22] 1082, 1086
Foreign Affairs [28] 1459, 1471
Slave Trade, &c. [29] 324, 328, 331
Uganda [25] 194, 196, 197, 221, 230, 257; [29] 333
Uganda and British Central Africa Vote [29] 26

Thames Conservancy Bill, Con. [26] 1288
Tuberculosis Commission Report [26] 565
Uganda [23] 856, 982; [24] 488, 603, 913
Wadelai, Map of [24] 603
Ways and Means — Financial Statement, Com. [23] 1242, 1249
West Ham Town Clerkships [27] 362

DILLON, Mr. J., *Mayo, E.*
De Freyne Estate [27] 559
Evictions in County Sligo [27] 1576
Orange Disturbances in Ireland [25] 1227
Supply
House of Lords Officers [28] 1430, 1431
Speeches in Ireland [25] 1227
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [23] 898, 899, 903, 915, 927, 928; 2R. [27] 740, 744, 746, 748, 752, 753; Com., 1043, 1181, 1182, 1184, 1186, 1517, 1523, 1544; 3R. [28] 292, 314, 346, 347, 348
Ways and Means, Com. [29] 129, 133, 141

Diplomatic and Consular Services
Vote for, and Debate on *Aug* 22 [29] 324, &c.

Diplomatic Service
Appointment of Sir M. Durand—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *July* 30 [27] 1340, &c.
Foreign Office—Ridley Commission, Q. Sir A. Hayter; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 10 [28] 555

Directors, Public Examination of
Q. Mr. Barrow; A. Mr. Burt *May* 21 [24] 913

Disarmament Policy
Q. Sir J. Carmichael; A. Sir E. Grey *Mar* 16 [22] 436; Q. Sir J. Whitehead; A. Sir W. Harcourt *Mar* 30, 1008; Q. Mr. Byles; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 20 [23] 980

Diseases of Animals Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Gardner; Read 1° *May* 28 [24] 1503
2R. deferred *June* 4 [25] 387
Read 2°, and com. to Joint Com. on Statute Law Revision, &c. *June* 15, 1319
Reported from Joint Com. and Re-com. *Aug* 3 [28] 116
Re-com. deferred *Aug* 7, 367
Con. in Com., and Reported *Aug* 13, 877
3R.; Debate adjourned *Aug* 14, 1076
Read 3°, and passed *Aug* 16, 1354
l. Read 1ª *Aug* 17, 1377
Read 2ª; Amendts. reported; Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 20 [29] 8
Returned from the Commons with Amendts. agreed to *Aug* 21, 149
Royal Assent *Aug* 25
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 57]

Disestablishment (see under titles SCOTLAND and WALES)

Dispensary Committees (Ireland) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. P. A. M'Hugh; Read 1° *April* 17 [23] 748
[Dropped]

DISRAELI, Mr. C. R., *Cheshire, Altrincham*
Period of Qualification and Elections Bill, 2R. [24] 88
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [27] 744; 3R. [28] 331

Dissenting Endowments
Q. Mr. S. Leighton; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 14 [25] 1094

District and Parish Councils
Q. Colonel Gunter; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 5 [22] 1448; Q. Mr. Heneage; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 9, 1577; Q. Mr. Jeffreys; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 24 [23] 1223; Q. Mr. H. Hobhouse; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 9 [26] 1194
Application under Section 33 of the Local Government Act, Qs. Mr. Leon; As. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 12 [25] 912
Ballots, Qs. Mr. Cobb, Mr. Storey; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 20 [29] 11
Borough Mayors and the County Bench, Q. Mr. Baldwin; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 26 [27] 1003

[*cont.*

District and Parish Councils—cont.

- *Chairmen of District Councils as Justices of the Peace*, Q. Mr. Rankin; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 12 [26] 1475; Q. Mr. Rankin; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 3 [28] 5
- *Civil Servants*, Q. Mr. Storey; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 16 [28] 1237; References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *July* 30 [27] 1298, &c.
- *Dockyard Employés*, Qs. Mr. E. J. C. Morton, Mr. Baker; As. Mr. E. Robertson *June* 15 [25] 1220; Q. Mr. E. J. C. Morton; A. Mr. E. Robertson *July* 13 [26] 1569
- *Elections—Local Government Rules*, Q. Mr. J. E. Ellis; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 28 [26] 423; Q. Mr. Strachey; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 10, 1299; Q. Mr. Jeffreys; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 24 [27] 797
- *Library Commissioners*, Q. Mr. Macdonald; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 12 [26] 1483
- *Peers—Parochial Electors' Register*, Q. Mr. Cornwallis; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 29 [26] 574
- *Post Office Servants*, Qs. Mr. C. Williams, Sir C. Dilke; As. Mr. A. Morley *July* 2 [26] 680; Q. Mr. Storey; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 20 [29] 25; References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 21 [29] 259, &c.
- *Returning Officers*, Q. Mr. Wingfield-Digby; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 31 [25] 23; Q. Mr. Bigwood; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 18, 1342; Q. Mr. W. M'Laren; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 22 [26] 12; Qs. Mr. Channing, Sir R. Paget; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 26, 229
- *Roadside Grazing Rights*, Q. Mr. C. Hobhouse; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 25 [26] 116
- *Rural Parish Meetings*, Q. Mr. Heneage; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 17 [27] 172
- *School Attendance Committees*, Q. Mr. H. Hobhouse; A. Mr. Acland *July* 9 [26] 1193
- *Voters' Lists, Preparation of*, Q. Mr. Logan; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 22 [26] 6

District Boards of Works

Q. Mr. C. Hobhouse; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 12 [25] 900

District Surveyors

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 30 [23] 1673

Divisions of the House

Return ordered *July* 31 [27] 1496

Divorce and Matrimonial Causes

Return pres. *April* 16 [23] 592

Divorce Bill

c. Select Com. appointed *June* 5 [25] 496

DIXON, Mr. G., *Birmingham, Edgbaston*

- New Zealand—Fiscal Policy [27] 366
- Railway Passes for Militiamen [26] 1466

DIXON-HARTLAND, Sir F. D., *Middlesex, Uxbridge*

- Census, Cost of [22] 444
- Civil Service Writers and Abstractors [25] 905
- Silver, Glut of [25] 1099
- Southwark and Vauxhall Water Bill, 2R. [23] 113, 114
- Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [22] 1501
- Thames Conservancy Bill, 2R. [22] 1419, 1425; Instr. to Com. [24] 1371, 1384, 1386; Con. [26] 392, 394, 396, 397, 1288, 1294, 1452, 1453, 1456
- Volunteer Long Service Medals [26] 1465

Dockyards (see under *Navy*)

DODD, Mr. C. J. S., *Essex, Maldon*

- Agricultural Depression in Essex [24] 1185; Res. [25] 831, 849
- Army (Annual) Bill, Com. [23] 567, 572
- Army—Civilian Bootmakers [24] 1543
- Billetting [25] 996
- Birr Barracks Scandal [28] 128
- Cambridge Corporation Bill, 3R. [24] 579, 751
- Cardiff Corporation Bill, Con. [26] 667, 669, 670
- Cattle Transit and Railway Companies [26] 446
- Charities, Division of [25] 27
- Charity Commission and the Local Government Act [22] 1002
- Church Patronage Bill, 2R. [24] 150
- Clubs and Excise Licences [22] 1008
- Essex Charity Lands, Sale of [28] 449
- Essex Fishermen, Alleged Piracy by [25] 1641
- Essex Fishing Ground [22] 866, 1003, 1253; [24] 809
- Finance Bill, Com. [25] 966; [26] 166, 167, 182, 488, 489, 622, 629, 750; Con., 1426, 1602, 1643, 1645, 1652
- German Prison-Made Goods [24] 766
- Great Eastern Railway Signalmen [28] 439
- Herefordshire Charities [29] 10
- Herefordshire Clerk of the Peace [23] 826
- Hyde Park, Cabs in [25] 1219
- Lincolnshire and Worcestershire Charities [25] 577
- Magistrates' Appointments, &c. [22] 1575; [23] 1665; [27] 178
- Magistrates' Qualification Bill, Intro. [22] 1092
- Meath (South) Polling List [28] 776
- Mining Royalties, Rents, and Wayleaves, Res. [22] 1542

[*cont.*

DODD, Mr. C. J. S.—*cont.*
National Debt Annuitants and Nonconformist Ministers [24] 481
Old Age Provident Pensions Bill, 2R. [22] 1341, 1342
Oxford, St. Mary the Virgin Charities [22] 1587
Pauper School Children Inquiry [28] 479
Railway and Canal Traffic Act—Conciliation Clause [26] 1561
Railway and Canal Traffic Bill [27] 1019; Com. [28] 644, 785, 797
Railways
Contracting Out [23] 339
Signalmen's Working Hours [25] 1619
Workmen's Tickets [24] 486, 1388; [25] 427; [26] 688; [28] 439
Supply
Board Schools, &c. [22] 820
Railway Companies and the Board of Trade [28] 1510
Uganda [25] 236, 239
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [27] 450; Com., 1532, 1548; Con. [28] 159
Thames Conservancy Bill, Con. [26] 1455
Trade and Agriculture, Depression of—Amendt. to Address in Answer to Queen's Speech [22] 89
Von Roemer's Resumption of British Nationality Bill, 2R. [28] 1216

Dog Muzzling Regulations in Ireland (see under IRELAND)

Dogs Bill
c. Intro., Mr. H. Gardner; Read 1° *April* 19 [23] 955
2R. deferred *April* 30, 1780
Withdrawn *July* 18 [27] 330

DOMINICA
Sir R. Hamilton's Report, &c., Q. Sir T. Esmonde; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 15 [25] 1221; Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. Buxton *July* 17 [27] 165; Qs. Sir G. Baden-Powell, Sir T. Esmonde, Mr. O'Driscoll; As. Mr. Buxton *Aug* 2, 1575; Q. Mr. O'Driscoll; A. Mr. Buxton *Aug* 3 [28] 32
Res., Earl of Stamford, Marquess of Ripon *Mar* 15 [22] 300

DONELAN, Captain A. J. C., *Cork, E.*
American Mail Route [22] 1506; [23] 844
Ireland
Boherbee Post Office [25] 1077
Castle Martyr Licensing Case [24] 214
Clashmore Constabulary Barracks [28] 773
Cork—Outdoor Sunday Preaching [22] 1517
Curragh Camp Buildings—Killaloe Slates [22] 1108
Factory (Female) Inspectors [26] 1069
[*cont.*

DONELAN, Captain A. J. C.—*cont.*
Ireland—*cont.*
Gun Licences—Case of Mr. J. T. Staunton [28] 774
Haulbowline Dockyard [22] 316; [24] 213, 1525; [25] 558, 923
Irish Language in Schools [28] 452
Killucan Medical Officer [28] 451
Kinsale Harbour Revenues [27] 163
Labourers' Cottages at Youghal [22] 328
Mails—London and North Western Railway Company [24] 213
Police Charges in County Cork [25] 1077
Presbyterian Police [29] 14
Recruiting for the Navy [26] 231
Soldiers Unloading Coal at Spike Island [22] 1450
Training Ships [24] 1002, 1264; [25] 420; [28] 1236
Naval Contracts—Passage Docks Company [27] 556
Navy Chaplains, Catholic [25] 1210
Navy Estimates—Shipbuilding, &c. [23] 267
Town Parks (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [22] 453
Van Horses in London, Cruelty to [28] 15

DONKIN, Mr. R. S., *Tynemouth*
Torpedo Destroyers [25] 1224

DORINGTON, Sir J. E., *Gloucester, Tewkesbury*
County Auditors Bill, Intro. [26] 319
Finance Bill, Com. [25] 1118; [26] 609, 610
Great Western and Midland Railway Companies Bill, 2R. [27] 542
Stroud School Board [23] 1222

DOUGLAS, Right Hon. A. AKERS-, *Kent, St. Augustine's*
Equalisation of Rates Bill [27] 1555

Dover Pier Dues
Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Mr. Mundella *Mar* 19 [22] 578

DRUMLANRIG, Viscount
Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Com. [26] 106

Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway and City of Dublin Junction Railway Bill
c. Read 2°; Instr. to Com. *June* 15 [25] 1205

Duchy of Lancaster
Allotments, Q. Mr. Cobb; A. Mr. Bryce *May* 7 [24] 473
Copy pres. May 8 [24] 692
Land, Q. Mr. Hare; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 21 [25] 1622
London County Council and Betterment—Motion for Papers (Earl of Onslow) *July* 13 [26] 1549

DUDLEY, Earl of
Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, 2R. [25] 1194

DUNN, Mr. W., *Paisley*
Burgh Police (Scotland) Act (1892) Amendment Bill, Intro. [24] 1635
Supply—Uganda [25] 232

DUNRAVEN, Earl of
Chimney Sweepers Bill, 2R. [27] 789; Com., 1113, 1114
Finance Bill, 2R. [27] 970
Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, 2R. [25] 1165

DYKE, Right Hon. Sir W. H., *Kent, Dartford*
Cordite Manufacture [28] 124
Fruit Identification Bill, 2R. [23] 167
Government Stationery Contract [25] 791
Highbury Vale School [22] 1591
Secondary Education Commission [23] 199
Supply—Voluntary Schools, &c. [22] 821, 823
Thames Conservancy Bill, 2R. [22] 1424
Waltham Abbey Powder Factory Explosions, Res. [24] 1450

Dynamite, Shipping of, at Plymouth (see *Explosives*)

Eastbourne School Accommodation (see under *Education*)

EAST INDIA (*see* INDIA)

East London Water Bill
c. Read 2° *April* 5 [22] 1381
Statement (Mr. J. Stuart) *April* 6, 1505
Evidence of Com. ordered *April* 19 [23] 955
Read 3°, and passed *June* 25 [26] 115
l. 2R. postponed *June* 26, 205
Read 2ª *June* 29, 517

Ecclesiastical Commission
Copy pres. Mar 12 [22] 128
Finsbury Estate, Q. Mr. J. Rowlands; A. Mr. Leveson-Gower *April* 17 [23] 627
Winwick Rectory Act, Q. Mr. Legh; A. Mr. Leveson-Gower *July* 6 [26] 1082

Edinburgh, Duke of (see *Saxe-Coburg*)

Edinburgh, Lord Rosebery's Speech at (see ROSEBERY, EARL OF)

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (ENGLAND AND WALES)
Lord President—Earl of ROSEBERY
Vice President—Mr. A. H. D. ACLAND
Ambulance Instruction, Q. Sir J. Leng; A. Mr. G. Russell *April* 19 [23] 824
Anderby Church School, Lincolnshire, Q. Mr. Talbot; A. Mr. Acland *July* 30 [27] 1261
Art Classes—Teachers' Qualification, Q. Mr. A. C. Morton; A. Mr. Acland *May* 7 [24] 469
Ashperton and Canon Ffrome National Schools, Q. Mr. R. Cooke; A. Mr. Acland *July* 27 [27] 1129
Atherington National School, Q. Viscount Cranborne; A. Mr. Acland *June* 28 [26] 441
Atherston—Free Education, Q. Mr. Lees Knowles; A. Mr. Acland *April* 23 [23] 1090
Attendance Prizes, Q. Mr. Cobb; A. Mr. Acland *April* 19 [23] 845
Bamley-in-the-Willows National School, Q. Mr. Griffith-Boscawen; A. Mr. Acland *July* 23 [27] 656
Bermondsey, St. James's School, Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 14 [28] 988
Books, Charges for—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 21 [29] 195
Buckfast Abbey School, Q. Sir R. Temple; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 21 [29] 163
Butley School, Suffolk, Q. Mr. Talbot; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 16 [28] 1244
Camberwell School Accommodation, Q. Mr. E. H. Bayley; A. Mr. Acland *Mar* 19 [22] 562
Charities (see title *Charity Commission*)
Cheadle Schools, Qs. Mr. M'Laren; As. Mr. Acland *April* 17, 613; *April* 20 [23] 972
Chelsea Board School, Qs. General Goldsworthy, Mr. Bartley, Mr. A. O'Connor; As. Mr. Acland *May* 10 [24] 808
Circulars Asking for Subscriptions in Lieu of Fees—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Mar* 15 [22] 378
Cleckheaton Schools, Qs. Viscount Cranborne; As. Mr. Acland *July* 16 [27] 19; *July* 27, 1137
Colleges and Universities, Vote for, and Debate on *Aug* 21 [29] 218, &c.
Copies pres. Mar 19 [22] 676; *Mar* 29, 1000; *April* 16 [23] 592; *May* 10 [24] 911; *May* 31 [25] 132; *June* 7, 668
Darwen Trinity Infants' School, Q. Viscount Cranborne; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 30 [27] 1257
Denominational Teaching in Elementary Schools, Q. Mr. Roche; A. Mr. Acland *July* 9 [26] 1194
Drink, School Board Lessons on, Q. Sir J. Whitehead; A. Mr. Acland *Mar* 30 [22] 1005; Q. Sir W. Lawson; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 24 [29] 422
Eastbourne School Accommodation, Qs. Mr. Channing, Mr. Bartley; As. Mr. Acland *Mar* 15 [22] 336

[*cont.*

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (ENGLAND & WALES)—cont.

Education Code, Qs. Mr. Talbot; As. Mr. Acland *April* 12 [23] 217; Qs. Mr. S. Leighton, Mr. Tomlinson; As. Mr. Acland *April* 13, 337; Q. Sir R. Paget; A. Mr. Acland *April* 19, 837; Q. and Obs. Lord Norton, Earl of Rosebery *July* 12 [26] 1445; Qs. Sir R. Temple, Viscount Cranborne; As. Mr. Acland *Aug* 21 [29] 164
Copy pres. *Mar* 19 [22] 676
Motion for an Address (Sir R. Temple) *April* 17 [23] 741
Motion for an Address (Viscount Cranborne) *April* 19 [23] 947
Res. (Lord Stanley of Alderley) *April* 19 [23] 818

Endowed Schools Acts (England and Wales), Copy pres. *May* 28 [24] 1504
(See also under sub-heading *Wales*)

Evening Schools Code, Q. Sir F. S. Powell; A. Mr. Acland *April* 23 [23] 1101; Obs. Sir R. Temple, Mr. Acland *April* 23, 1204; Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Mr. Acland *April* 24, 1223; Qs. Sir F. S. Powell, Mr. A. H. Smith, Mr. Griffith-Boscawen; As. Mr. Acland *May* 4 [24] 373
Copy pres. *Mar* 29 [22] 1000
Motion for Address (Sir R. Temple) *May* 28 [24] 1496; *May* 29, 1634
Scotch Questions (see under title SCOTLAND)

Exemption from School Attendance, Q. Mr. Taylor; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 21 [29] 168

Exton School, Q. Viscount Wolmer; A. Mr. Acland *July* 12 [26] 1488

Feckenham National School, Q. Mr. Talbot; A. Mr. Acland *July* 23 [27] 661

Flitwick School Board, Q. Sir J. Fergusson; A. Mr. Acland *Mar* 19 [22] 561; Q. Mr. J. W. Lowther; A. Mr. Acland *June* 5 [25] 415

Geldeston Church School, Q. Mr. H. Foster; A. Mr. Acland *July* 6 [26] 1066

Gnarlford National Schools, Q. Mr. Baldwin; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 7 [28] 249

Grants
  Elementary Schools, Copy pres. *Mar* 29 [22] 1000
  Public Elementary Schools—"Warned" Schools, Q. Viscount Cranborne; A. Mr. Acland *July* 27 [27] 1138
  Returns, Q. Viscount Cranborne; A. Mr. Acland *July* 12 [26] 1473
  Rural Districts, Qs. Mr. Talbot; As. Mr. Acland *July* 23 [27] 660; *Aug* 14 [28] 996
  Small Schools, Q. Sir R. Temple; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 21 [29] 163
  University Colleges, Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 5 [26] 957

Gresham University Commission, Report, &c., Q. Mr. C. Williams; A. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 22 [22] 867; Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Sir W. Harcourt *Mar* 29, 905; Q. Mr. Benn; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 27 [23] 1575; Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 22 [24] 1003; Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 9 [28] 474
Notice of Res. (Sir A. Rollit) *Mar* 30 [22] 1009

[*cont.*

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (ENGLAND & WALES)—cont.

Greystoke School, Cumberland, Q. Mr. J. W. Lowther; A. Mr. Acland *July* 5 [26] 949

Gymnastic Apparatus for Rural Schools, Qs. Viscount Wolmer, Mr. Talbot, Viscount Cranborne; As. Mr. Acland *June* 11 [25] 804

Halsham School, Yorkshire, Q. Sir F. S Powell; A. Mr. Acland *July* 6 [26] 1078

Hammersmith, Board School for, Q. Mr. Carvill; A. Mr. Acland *April* 26 [23] 1415

Hampstead, Christ Church National School, Q. Mr. Channing; A. Mr. Acland *June* 7 [25] 593

Hartshill Schoolroom, Q. Mr. Talbot; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 16 [28] 1244

Hay National School, Q. Viscount Cranborne; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 20 [29] 25

Hereford, St. James's National School, Q. Sir R. Temple; A. Mr. Acland *April* 17 [27] 631

Hever (Edenbridge) Schools, Qs. Mr. Griffith-Boscawen; As. Mr. Acland *July* 23 [27] 656; *Aug* 13 [28] 772

Highbury Vale School, Q. Sir W. H. Dyke; A. Mr. Acland *April* 9 [22] 1591

Horwich National School, Q. Mr. Snape; A. Mr. Acland *May* 25 [24] 1268

Hunslet, St. Silas' Schools, Q. Mr. Jackson; A. Mr. Acland *April* 27 [23] 1579

Incomes of Public Elementary Schools, Return, Q. Mr. Cobb; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 20 [29] 17

Inspectors, Elementary School Teachers as, Qs. Mr. Jacoby, Mr. Grove; As. Mr. Acland *Mar* 15 [22] 329

Kensington Local Examinations, Q. Mr. Diamond; A. Mr. Acland *July* 20 [27] 550

Kilburn, St. Augustine's Boys' School, Q. Mr. Channing; A. Mr. Acland *July* 16 [27] 25

Lambeth School Accommodation, Q. Mr. Channing; A. Mr. Acland *July* 26 [27] 1001

Liscard (Cheshire) School, Q. Sir J. Whitehead; A. Mr. Acland *Mar* 15 [22] 309

Lowestoft, Christ Church Infant School, Qs. Mr. H. Foster, Mr. Mac Neill; As. Mr. Acland *July* 27 [27] 1131; Qs. Mr. H. Foster; As. Mr. Acland *Aug* 2, 1580; *Aug* 13 [28] 777

Luccombe and Stoke-Pero School, Accommodation at, Motion for Return (Lord Stanley of Alderley) *April* 16 [23] 431

Matlock School, Q. Sir J. Whitehead; A. Mr. Acland *Mar* 15 [22] 309; Q. Mr. Picton; A. Mr. Acland *April* 30 [23] 1676

Munster Square Schools, Q. Mr. Graham; A. Mr. Acland *May* 24 [24] 1170

Non-Board School Improvements, Res. (Sir R. Temple) *Mar* 29 [22] 958

North Hagbourne Church of England Schools and the Education Department, Q. Mr. Talbot; A. Mr. Acland *July* 6 [26] 1186

[*cont.*

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (ENGLAND & WALES)—cont.

Overcrowding in London Board Schools, Q. Mr. Macdonald; A. Mr. Acland *May* 24 [24] 1149

Paddington, St. James's School, Q. Mr. Everett; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 7 [28] 258

Preston, Holy Trinity National Schools, Q. Mr. Tomlinson; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 21 [29] 162

Public Elementary Schools Return, Q. Mr. Cobb; A. Mr. Acland *Mar* 15 [22] 311

Radway School, Warwickshire, Q. Mr. Cobb; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 20 [29] 12

Ratley Elementary School, Q. Mr. Cobb; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 14 [28] 983

Reach National School, Swaffham's Prior, Q. Sir F. S. Powell; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 13 [28] 766

Religious Instruction in Board Schools, Motion for Return (Lord Colchester) *May* 29 [24] 1506

Report, Q. Sir F. S. Powell; A. Mr. Acland *July* 6 [26] 1076

Romford, St. Edward's National School, Q. Sir F. S. Powell; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 9 [28] 436

Ross Board Schools, Q. Mr. R. Cooke; A. Mr. Acland *June* 8 [25] 682

St. Pancras—Free Education, Q. Mr. J. Rowlands; A. Mr. Acland *April* 26 [23] 1421

St. Paul's School (see under title *Charity Commission*)

School Attendance Committees and District Councils, Q. Mr. H. Hobhouse; A. Mr. Acland *July* 9 [26] 1193

School Board Debts, Q. Sir G. Sitwell; A. Mr. Acland *May* 3 [24] 236

School Board Rates and the Extra Grant, Q. Mr. Broad; A. Mr. Acland *June* 7 [25] 567

School Boards, &c. (England and Wales), Copy pres. *May* 10 [24] 911

Science and Art Department Directory, Q. Sir F. Mappin; A. Mr. Acland *May* 29 [24] 1530; Q. Mr. S. Smith; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 9 [28] 464

Science and Art Department Writers, Q. Mr. Saunders; A. Mr. Acland *April* 30 [23] 1680

Secondary Education Commission, Qs. Mr. Talbot, Viscount Cranborne; As. Mr. Acland *April* 9 [22] 1583; Qs. Mr. J. Lowther, Sir W. H. Dyke, Mr. Bartley, Mr. Weir; As. Mr. Acland *April* 12 [23] 199; Q. Sir F. Mappin; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 4 [25] 292
(References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 20 [29] 112)

Secondary Schools—Assistant Masters, Q. Mr. Roundell; A. Mr. F. S. Stevenson *May* 8 [24] 592

Sedgwick School, Westmoreland, Q. Captain Bagot; A. Mr. Acland *June* 7 [25] 566

Sopley British School, Q. Mr. Scott-Montagu; A. Mr. Acland *April* 12 [23] 201

[*cont.*

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (ENGLAND & WALES)—cont.

Stroud School Board, Qs. Sir J. Dorington, Mr. B. Jones; As. Mr. Acland *April* 24 [23] 1222

Teachers
- *Elementary School Teachers as Inspectors*, Qs. Mr. Jacoby, Mr. Grove; As. Mr. Acland *Mar* 15 [22] 329
- *Elementary Teachers, Scarcity of*, Q. Mr. H. Foster; A. Mr. Acland *Mar* 20 [22] 691
- *Superannuation*, Qs. Sir R. Temple; As. Mr. Acland *April* 26 [23] 1447; *Aug* 7 [28] 251
- *Teaching Staffs in Elementary Schools—Article 73 of the New Code*, Q. Sir R. Paget; A. Mr. Acland *April* 19 [23] 837

Technical Education—Motion for Return (Lord Norton) *April* 30 [23] 1653

Tenbury National Schools, Q. Mr. Baldwin; A. Mr. Acland *May* 3 [24] 229

Thrift in Elementary Schools, Qs. Mr. Roundell; As. Mr. Acland *April* 6 [22] 1508; *April* 13 [23] 334

Training Colleges, Q. Mr. T. Bailey; A. Mr. Acland *April* 27 [23] 1583; References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Mar* 15 [22] 386, 390

Ulverston National School, Q. Sir F. S. Powell; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 9 [28] 438

University Colleges, Report, Q. Sir F. S. Powell; A. Mr. Acland *July* 6 [26] 1077

Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford), Copy pres. *May* 8 [24] 692

Unwieldy Classes in London Schools, Q. Mr. Pickersgill; A. Mr. Acland *June* 11 [25] 807

Voluntary Schools
- *Alterations*, Q. Mr. R. Cooke; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 21 [29] 165
- *Education Department Requirements*, Q. Mr. H. Foster; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 2 [27] 1580; References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Mar* 15 [22] 378, &c.; *see* also under names of Schools
- *Fee Grant*, Q. Mr. Bucknill; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 2 [27] 1560
- *Finance*, Q. Mr. H. Foster; A. Mr. Acland *Mar* 20 [22] 692; Q. Mr. Channing; A. Mr. Acland *June* 7 [25] 594
- *Grants Withheld*, Q. Mr. H. Foster; A. Mr. Acland *Mar* 20 [22] 693
- Reference to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Mar* 21 [22] 801, &c.
- "*Warned*" *Schools*, Qs. Viscount Cranborne; As. Mr. Acland *Mar* 13 [22] 146; *Mar* 15, 345; *July* 27 [27] 1139

Vote for, Con. in Com. *Aug* 20 [29] 89; Report *Aug* 21, 180

Wakefield, St. John's School, Q. Viscount Cranborne; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 20 [29] 17

Wales
- *Bishop of St. Asaph and Mr. Acland*, Q. Mr. Humphreys-Owen; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 2 [27] 1575
- *Coed-y-Pain School*, Q. Mr. S. Leighton; A. Mr. Acland *May* 24 [24] 1169

[*cont.*

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (ENGLAND & WALES)—cont.

Wales—cont.

Endowed Schools Act, 1869, and Amending Acts and Welsh Intermediate Education Act, 1889
- *Anglesey County Scheme*—Motion for Address (Bishop of Bangor) *April* 17 [23] 593
- *Copies pres. Mar* 29 [22] 1000; *May* 10 [24] 911; *May* 28 [24] 1504
- *Denbighshire Scheme*—Motions for Addresses (Viscount Cross) *June* 19 [25] 1437; (Bishop of St. Asaph) *June* 19 [25] 1447; Answer to the Address *July* 12 [26] 1437
- *Flint County Scheme*—Motion for Address (Bishop of St. Asaph) *April* 17 [23] 598; Answer to the Address *May* 7 [24] 425

Grants to Public Elementary Schools, Q. Viscount Cranborne; A. Mr. Acland *July* 27 [27] 1138

Intermediate Education, Q. Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen; A. Mr. Acland *April* 17 [23] 620

Intermediate Education Scheme, Denbighshire, Q. Mr. H. Roberts; A. Mr. Acland *July* 27 [27] 1136

Llanarth National School, Q. Mr. W. Williams; A. Mr. Acland *June* 18 [25] 1352

Rhuddlan School, St. Asaph, Q. Mr. Griffith-Boscawen; A. Mr. Acland *July* 30 [27] 1252

School Inspectors, Q. Mr. Kenyon; A. Mr. Acland *April* 6 [22] 1505

Uzmaston School, Q. Viscount Cranborne; A. Mr. Acland *June* 19 [25] 1465

Waltham, St. Lawrence School, Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 9 [28] 461

Westminster School Accommodation, Q. Mr. Channing; A. Mr. Acland *July* 26 [27] 1000

Wetherby Church Schools, Q. Mr. Talbot; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 21 [29] 154

Worcestershire, Cotteridge School, Q. Sir R. Temple; A. Mr. Acland *Mar* 16 [22] 446

Education Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill

l. Pres., Earl of Rosebery; Read 1ª *May* 8 [24] 578

Read 2ª *June* 12 [25] 896

Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *June* 25 [26] 114

Read 3ª, and passed *June* 26, 217

c. Read 1° *June* 28, 514

Read 2° *July* 3, 876

As amended, Con. *July* 30 [27] 1363

Read 3°, and passed *July* 31, 1493

l. Commons Amendts. con., and agreed to *Aug* 6 [28] 118

Royal Assent *Aug* 17

[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxciv]

EDWARDS, Mr. F., *Radnorshire*

Ancient Manuscripts in Welsh Libraries [25] 911

Supply
- Agricultural Education in Wales [28] 1548
- Census—Welsh-Speaking Population [29] 39, 44, 323
- Woods and Forests [28] 1582, 1585

EGYPT

Anglo-Belgian Agreement (see under AFRICA)

British Trade, Q. Mr. Seton-Karr; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 26 [26] 226

Corvée, Qs. Mr. S. Smith, Mr. Pierpoint; As. Sir E. Grey *July* 2 [26] 681; *July* 9, 1189; Qs. Mr. Channing, Mr. Legh; As. Sir E. Grey *July* 9, 1197

Education, Q. Mr. Seton-Karr; A. Sir E. Grey *July* 10 [26] 1295

Nile Reservoirs, Qs. Mr. Graham, Mr. J. W. Lowther; As. Sir E. Grey *June* 7 [25] 550; Q. Mr. Pierpoint; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 19, 1471; Q. Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 9 [28] 449

Sanitary Condition, Q. Mr. Seton-Karr; A. Sir E. Grey *July* 23 [27] 672

Tokar Tribesmen, Q. Mr. Atherley-Jones; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 16 [28] 1242

Zobehr Pasha, Q. Mr. Curzon; A. Sir E. Grey *Mar* 15 [22] 342

Eight Hours Movement (see under *Labour Department*)

Elections

District and Parish Councils (see that title)

Parliamentary (see that title)

Elections (Second Ballot) Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Holland; Read 1° *May* 1 [24] 140

[Dropped]

Elections (Second Ballot and Returning Officers' Expenses) Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Holland; Read 1° *Aug* 8 [28] 428

[Dropped]

Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 to 1890 (Proceedings)

Paper pres.; to be printed *July* 2 [26] 772

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders Bills

(No. 1)

c. Intro., Mr. Burt; Read 1° *April* 17 [23] 747

Read 2° *May* 8 [24] 691

Reported *May* 24, 1255

As amended, Con. *May* 25, 1361

Read 3°, and passed *May* 28, 1502

[*cont.*

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders Bills (No. 1)—cont.
l. Read 1ª *May* 28, 1508
Read 2ª *June* 7 [25] 546
Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *June* 8, 670
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 18, 1336
c. Lords Amendts. agreed to *June* 21, 1725
Royal Assent *July* 3
[57° & 58° Vic. c. xlix]

(No. 2)
c. Intro., Mr. Burt; Read 1° *April* 17 [23] 747
Read 2° *May* 21 [24] 994
Reported *June* 5 [25] 495
Con. *June* 6, 544
Read 3°, and passed *June* 7, 666
l. Read 1ª *June* 8, 671
Read 2ª *June* 15, 1204
Com.; Standing Com. negatived *June* 18, 1337
Amendts. reported *June* 19, 1448
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 21, 1617
c. Lords Amendts. agreed to *June* 26 [26] 318
l. Returned from the Commons *June* 28, 390
Royal Assent *July* 3
[57° & 58° Vic. c. l]

(No. 3)
l. Pres., Lord Playfair; Read 1ª *April* 30 [23] 1658
Read 2ª *May* 29 [24] 1507
Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *June* 11 [25] 787
Amendts. reported *June* 12, 896
Read 3ª *June* 14, 1058
c. Read 1° *June* 15, 1320
Read 2° *June* 26 [26] 318
Reported *July* 5, 1043
Read 3°, and passed *July* 6, 1167
Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxiv]

(No. 4)
l. Pres., Lord Monkswell; Read 1ª *May* 4 [24] 334
Read 2ª *May* 29, 1507
Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *June* 11 [25] 787
Amendts. reported *June* 12, 896
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 14, 1058
c. Read 1° *June* 15, 1320
Read 2° *June* 26 [26] 318
Reported *July* 5, 1043
Read 3°, and passed *July* 6, 1167
Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxv]

(No. 5)
l. Pres., Lord Playfair; Read 1ª *May* 7 [24] 453
Read 2ª *May* 29, 1507
Com.; Standing Com. negatived *June* 12 [25] 897
Amendts. reported *June* 14, 1058
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 15, 1205
c. Read 1° *June* 18, 1436
Read 2° *June* 26 [26] 319
Reported *July* 5, 1043
Read 3°, and passed *July* 6, 1167
Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxvi]

Elementary Education Bill
c. Motion for Leave (Mr. Acland); Read 1° *June* 28 [26] 513
2R.; Debate adjourned *July* 11, 1436
2R. further adjourned *July* 16 [27] 115
Withdrawn *Aug* 10 [28] 649

Elementary Education (Continuation Schools) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. S. Smith; Read 1° *June* 22 [26] 104
Withdrawn *Aug* 8 [28] 428

Elementary Education (Exemption from School Attendance) Bill
c. Intro., Sir R. Temple; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 456
2R.; Debate adjourned *April* 11 [23] 168
Withdrawn *Aug* 6 [28] 228

Elementary Education Provisional Order Confirmation (Barry, &c.) Bill
l. Read 2ª *June* 12 [25] 896
Committed *June* 19, 1449
Reported from Select Com., and Re-com. to Com. of the Whole House *July* 3 [26] 778
Com.; Standing Com. negatived *July* 5, 941
Amendts. reported *July* 6, 1062
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 9, 1186
c. Read 1° *July* 10, 1391
Read 2° *July* 20 [27] 644
As amended, Con. *July* 30, 1364
Read 3°, and passed *July* 31, 1493
l. Commons Amendts. con., and agreed to *Aug* 6 [28] 118
Royal Assent *Aug* 17
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxcv]

ELLIS, Mr. J. E., *Nottingham, Rushcliffe*
Bishopric of Bristol Act (1884) Amendment Bill, 2R. [25] 1724
Business of the House [22] 1272; [24] 1423
Canadian Cattle [26] 781; [27] 366

[*cont.*

ELLIS, Mr. J. E.—*cont.*
- Charity Commission (Parliamentary Control), Res. [22] 1009, 1016, 1017, 1023
- Coal Mines, Explosions in [22] 314
- District and Parish Councils Elections—Local Government Board Rules [26] 423
- Filey Brigg Shipwreck [23] 1080
- Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 815
- Indian Opium Question [23] 1406; [24] 589; [27] 13
- Ipswich Burial Board [23] 15
- Labour Commission, Cost of [26] 782
- Lobengula's Messengers [23] 622; [25] 422
- Local Government Act, 1894, Copies of [22] 151
- Mashonaland—Fort Victoria Inquiry [23] 624
- Matabeleland Affairs—Dr. Jameson [25] 408
- Places of Worship (Sites) Bill, Intro. [22] 675; 2R. [23] 110, 111; [24] 993
- Post Office Savings Bank Act [22] 558
- Railway and Canal Traffic Bill, Com. [28] 795
- Railway Rates [25] 908
- Railway Servants' Inquiries [22] 691
- Shot Firing in Mines [27] 365
- Telegraph Revenue [23] 825
- Vivisection [24] 1390
- Westminster Abbey—Removing Houses in Old Palace Yard, &c. [25] 21

ELLIS, Mr. T. E. (Secretary to the Treasury), *Merionethshire*
- Berwickshire, New Writ for [22] 296
- Boards of Conciliation Bill, 2R. [25] 889
- Building Societies (No. 2) Bill [27] 330
- Business of the House [23] 172, 812, 1384; [27] 1555, 1556
- Crofters' Bill [26] 1280
- Diseases of Animals Bill, Re-com. [28] 367
- Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill [28] 428
- House of Commons—Kitchen and Refreshment Rooms—Expenses Return [22] 852
- Supply—Attorney General's Vote [28] 1490
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [23] 1202

ELY, Bishop of
- Endowed Schools Act, 1869, and Amending Acts, &c., Motion for Address [25] 1446

Emigration and Immigration
- *Alien Paupers Returns*, Q. Mr. J. Lowther; A. Mr. Mundella *Mar* 15 [22] 349
- *Aliens*, Returns pres. *April* 19 [23] 956
- *Aliens and British Charities*, Q. Major Darwin; A. Mr. F. S. Stevenson *June* 15 [25] 1215
- *Copy pres. April* 26 [23] 1552
- *Emigrants' Information Office*, Q. Mr. Hogan; A. Mr. Buxton *Mar* 20 [22] 686

[*cont.*

Emigration and Immigration—cont.
- *Emigrants on German Steamers*, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 12 [25] 909
- *Emigrants on the "Havel,"* Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 12 [25] 910
- *Emigration Statistics—United States Law, &c.*, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 23 [23] 1073
- *Immigration, Aliens*, Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. Tomlinson; As. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 21 [29] 150

Employers' Liability in Scotland (see under SCOTLAND)

Employers' Liability Bill
- *c.* Intro., Mr. Seton-Karr; Read 1° *April* 3 [22] 1316

[Dropped]

Employment of Soldiers—Select Com., &c. (see under *Army*—sub-heading *Reserve and Discharged Soldiers*)

Endowed Schools Act (see under *Education*)

Enfield Small Arms Factory (see under *Army*)

Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill
- *c.* 2R.; Debate adjourned *July* 24 [27] 813
  - Read 2° *July* 25, 897
  - Order for Com. *Aug* 3 [28] 34; Instr. to Com. (Mr. A. Grove), 36; Con. in Com., 40, R.P.; Debate resumed *Aug* 8, 370; Reported
  - As amended, Con.; Read 3°, and passed *Aug* 13, 779
- *l.* Read 1ª *Aug* 13 [28] 756
  - Read 2ª *Aug* 16, 1156
  - Com.; Reported *Aug* 17, 1368
  - Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 20 [29] 9
  - Royal Assent *Aug* 25

[57^{c} & 58° Vic. c. 53]

Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill
- Qs. Sir J. Lubbock, Mr. Darling; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 12 [23] 224; Qs. Sir J. Lubbock, Mr. Goschen; As. Sir W. Harcourt, Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 17, 634; Qs. Mr. Barrow, Mr. J. Rowlands; As. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 8 [24] 609; Q. Marquess of Carmarthen; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 10, 795

ESMONDE, Sir T. G., *Kerry, W.*
- Army Estimates—Rifle Range Accident at Glenbeigh [25] 1030
- Dominica [25] 1221; [27] 1575

[*cont.*

ESMONDE, Sir T. G.—*cont.*
Ireland
Board of Works Inspectors [25] 790
Dingle Labourers' Cottages [23] 617
Dingle Pier [23] 835; [26] 431
Dunquin Landing Place [24] 210
Glenbeigh Shell Fatality [25] 790
Kerry—Glassabeg and Brandon Creeks—Sunken Rocks [23] 327
Killarney Union [23] 1092
Piers, Grants for [23] 1585
Tralee and Dingle Railway [22] 143; [23] 184
Tralee Union Finance [24] 759
Ventry Harbour Works [23] 1433
Rotten Row Accidents [26] 445
Samoan Islands [23] 1434, 1661

Essex
Agricultural Questions (see under *Agricultural Depression*)
Charity Land (see under *Charity Commission*)
Fisheries Questions (see under title *Fisheries*)

Established Church (Wales) Bill
c. Motion for Leave (Mr. Asquith); Debate adjourned *April* 26 [23] 1455
Debate resumed; Read 1° *April* 30 [23] 1690
Withdrawn *July* 18 [27] 331

Established Church (Wales) Bill
Qs. Sir G. Osborne Morgan, Mr. Hozier, Mr. Bartley, Mr. Lloyd-George; As. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 12 [23] 219; Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 24 [24] 1190; Q. Mr. D. Thomas; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 5 [26] 956
Burial Grounds, Q. Mr. S. Leighton; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 12 [26] 1463
Cathedrals as Parish Churches, Q. Mr. S. Leighton; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 28 [24] 1407; Qs. Mr. S. Leighton, Viscount Cranborne; As. Mr. Asquith *June* 4 [25] 299
Cathedrals—Expenses of Restoration, Qs. Mr. Arnold-Forster; As. Mr. Asquith *May* 3 [24] 216; *May* 8, 589; Qs. Mr. Arnold-Forster, Mr. P. FitzGerald, Mr. Griffith-Boscawen; As. Mr. Asquith *June* 7 [25] 561; Qs. Viscount Wolmer, Mr. Talbot, Mr. Griffith-Boscawen, Viscount Cranborne; As. Mr. Asquith *June* 11, 802
Cathedrals, Services in, Qs. Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen, Mr. W. Johnston; As. Mr. Asquith *May* 1 [24] 44
Cathedrals—Structural Arrangements, Qs. Viscount Cranborne, Mr. Griffith-Boscawen; As. Mr. Asquith *June* 28 [26] 442
Glebe and Tithe Rent-Charge, Qs. Mr. Jeffreys; As. Mr. Asquith *May* 3 [24] 216; *May* 8, 588
Revenues, Qs. Mr. D. Thomas; As. Mr. Asquith *May* 3 [24] 216; *May* 8, 589; *May* 25, 1280
Statement (Sir W. Harcourt) *April* 20 [23] 987

[*cont.*

Established Church (Wales) Bill—cont.
Tithe Rent-Charge, Q. Mr. A. J. Balfour; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 30 [23] 1687
Translation into Welsh, Q. Sir G. Osborne Morgan; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 1 [24] 36

Estate Duty (see under *Ways and Means—Death Duties*)

EVANS, Mr. S. T., *Glamorgan, Mid.*
Rating of Machinery Bill, 2R. [24] 742, 745

EVANS, Sir F. H., *Southampton*
Newfoundland Ministerial Crisis [23] 1105
Supply—Newfoundland [24] 1325

Evening School Code (see under *Education*)

EVERETT, Mr. R. L., *Suffolk, Woodbridge*
Business of the House [27] 288
Cattle, Unloading—Cruelties in [29] 167
Cromwell's Statue, Palace of Westminster [26] 1483; [28] 1588; [29] 21
East Bergholt Charity Lands [28] 476
East India Revenue Accounts [25] 310; Com. [28] 1331
Farm Assessments in Suffolk [27] 802
Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 503; Com. [25] 704, 705, 1716; [26] 606; 3R. [27] 203, 208
Government Farms, Wages on [28] 984; [29] 419
Income Tax [22] 1058
Ipswich Burial Board [23] 14
Old Age Provident Pensions Bill, 2R. [22] 1335, 1342
St. James's School, Paddington [28] 258
Supply—Public Education [29] 196
Trade and Agriculture, Depression of—Amendt. to Address in Answer to Queen's Speech [22] 119
Ways and Means, Com. [29] 135, 146

EVERSHED, Mr. S., *Staffordshire, Burton*
Finance Bill, Com. [26] 364
Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 528, 532

Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Arbitration Bill
(See *Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill*)

Evictions in Ireland (see under IRELAND)

Evidence in Criminal Cases Bill
l. Pres., Lord Herschell; Read 1ª *July* 6 [26] 1063
Read 2ª *July* 23 [27] 645

Excise (see under title *Customs, Excise, and Inland Revenue*)

Expiring Laws Continuance Bill
c. Intro., Sir J. T. Hibbert; Read 1° *Aug* 6 [28] 224
Read 2° *Aug* 13, 888
Con. in Com., and Reported; Read 3°, and passed *Aug* 14 [28] 1081
l. Read 1ª *Aug* 16, 1215
Read 2ª *Aug* 17, 1377
Com.; Reported, &c.; Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 20 [29] 10
Royal Assent *Aug* 25
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 48]

Explosives
Shipping of at Plymouth, Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 13 [26] 1568; Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *July* 20 [27] 547
Solent Explosion, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 30 [27] 1265

Extradition
Copy pres. May 10 [24] 911
Jabez Balfour (see *Balfour*)
Liberia, Copy pres. *Mar* 19 [22] 676

Eyre and Spottiswoode, Messrs.
Government Printing Contracts and Trade Union Wages, Q. Mr. Woods; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 13 [28] 770
Debate on, in Com. of *Supply*, *Aug* 18 [28] 1559, &c.

Factories (see under *Labour Department*)

Factories and Workshops Bill
c. Motion for Leave (Mr. Asquith); Read 1° *April* 30 [23] 1688
Withdrawn *July* 18 [27] 331

Factory and Workshops Bill
Laundries, Q. Mr. Stuart-Wortley; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 7 [25] 591

Factors' Act (1889) Amendment Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Greene; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 455

Factory and Workshops Act (1891) Amendment Bill
c. Intro., Sir H. James; Read 1° *Mar* 21 [22] 853
[Dropped]

Fairs, Dangerous Amusements at—Accident at Darlington
Q. Mr. H. F. Pease; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 8 [24] 599

Falkland Islands — Garrisoned with Marines
Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 24 [24] 1162

False Trade Descriptions (see under *Trade, Board of*)

Farm Assessments in Suffolk (see under *Local Government Board*)

Farm Servants' Holiday (Scotland) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Napier; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 461
[Dropped]

Farms, Government (see under *Woods and Forests and Land Revenues of the Crown*)

Farnham Tithe Dispute
Q. Mr. Jeffreys; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 14 [28] 992

FARQUHARSON, Dr. R., *Aberdeenshire, W.*
Army Estimates
  Dr. Briggs [26] 818
  Land Forces [22] 549
  Royal Artillery Officers [25] 1001
Bakehouses in London [22] 1508
Canadian Cattle Importation [22] 866; [23] 1084; [24] 1533; [26] 1474
Crofters' Act (1886), Res. [23] 1641
Forest Gate Schools Poisoning [24] 231
Indian Medical Staff Corps [24] 230
Marking of Foreign Meat [22] 694; [23] 26, 27
Pauper School Children Inquiry [28] 478
Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Com. [24] 1091
School Books in Scotland [23] 1082
Secondary Education Inspectors [24] 1172
Small Tenants (Scotland) Bill, Intro. [23] 1068
Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [23] 696

FARQUHARSON, Mr. H. R., *Dorset, W.*
Finance Bill, Com. [26] 267, 269
Income Tax Assessments [26] 177
Magistrates' Appointment Fees [23] 11

[*cont.*

Farquharson, Mr. H. R.—*cont.*
Pictorial Advertisements, Imported [26] 795; [27] 548
Supply
Board of Agriculture [28] 1545. 1546, 1547
"Board of Trade Journal" [28] 1542
Strikes and the Board of Trade [28] 1523
Uniforms Bill, Intro. [22] 450; 2R. [24] 699, 716

Farrer, Lord
Finance Bill, 2R. [27] 967

Fatal Accidents Inquiry (Scotland) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. J. B. Balfour; Read 1° *April* 9 [22] 1688
2R.; Debate adjourned *May* 22 [24] 1081
Withdrawn *July* 18 [27] 331

Fatal Accidents Inquiry (Scotland) Bill
Q. Mr. A. C. Morton; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *June* 5 [25] 418

Featherstone Riots — Compensation Claims
Q. Mr. Nussey; A. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 19 [22] 576

Fellowes, Hon. A. E., *Hunts, Ramsey*
Anthrax [22] 1250; [25] 418, 1346
Glanders in the Metropolis [25] 1346

Fenwick, Mr. C., *Northumberland, Wansbeck*
Army Contracts and Trade Unions [23] 9
Cab Strike [25] 559
Factory Inspectors' Assistants [25] 578
Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, Com. [28] 810, 842, 844, 1046
Old Age Provident Pensions Bill, 2R. [22] 1371
Queen's Speech, Reply to [22] 41
Savings Banks (Societies) Bill, Com. [25] 1163
Supply
Cab Strike [24] 1308
Post Office [29] 118, 119

Fergusson, Right Hon. Sir J., *Manchester, N.E.*
Army Estimates
Duke of Cambridge [27] 305
Militia [26] 864
Finance Bill, Com. [25] 1161
Flitwick School Board [22] 561
Indian Prisons, Mortality in [23] 618
Indian Troopships [27] 1572
Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Con., [28] 532, 582; Lords Amendts. [29] 295 299, 300, 311

Fergusson, Right Hon. Sir J.—*cont.*
Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, 2R. [23] 1380, 1382
Queen's Speech, Reply to [22] 121
Scotch Church Disestablishment [22] 121
Telephone Companies and the Post Office [23] 1660
Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill Con. [27] 1383
Uganda [22] 141; [23] 1096

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs
Q. Mr. A. Cross; A. Mr. Gardner *May* 25 [24] 1261

Feus and Building Leases (see under Scotland)

Feversham, Earl of
Finance Bill, 2R. [27] 953

Ffrench, Mr. P., *Wexford, S.*
Ireland
Agricultural Class Books [28] 458
Evictions [22] 697; [25] 1229
Fisheries [22] 1571; [23] 1101
New Ross Postal Arrangements [27] 1013; [28] 244
Police Holding Evicted Farms [25] 9
Wexford Grand Jury [27] 1564; [28] 132, 459
Wexford Letter Deliveries [25] 1639

Field, Admiral E., *Sussex, Eastbourne*
Army (Annual) Bill, Com. [23] 570, 575
Army and Navy Defensive Preparations, Res. [22] 502
Behring Sea Award Bill, Com. [22] 1681
Brazil—Alleged Outrage on a British Subject [26] 428
Cape Andrea Lights [27] 1261
Cyprus
Administration [27] 1259
Lights on the Coast [28] 442
Dockyard Labour and Wages, Res. [22] 621
Dockyard Tugs, Masters of [28] 983
Naval Reserve [22] 664
Navy Estimates
Men and Boys [22] 778, 779
Shipbuilding, Repairs, and Maintenance—Personnel [23] 89, 102
Parliamentary Elections (Expenses), Res. [24] 1352
Queen's Birthday Honours—Order of the Bath, &c. [25] 313, 574, 1083
Sheerness Gunnery Establishment, Money Voted for [24] 1150
Supply
British East Africa Company [27] 1317, 1318
Dockyard Employés and District and Parish Councils [27] 1304
Subsidised Foreign Steamers [24] 1327, 1328, 1484
Watertight Bulkheads on Battleships [24] 1156

[*cont.*

FIELD, Mr. W., *Dublin, St. Patrick's*
American Mail Route [23] 845 ; [24] 1182
Army Pensions — Sergeant-Major Lowe's Widow [24] 1528
Army Rations—Flour [23] 211
Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, Con. [27] 1645, 1653, 1654, 1660
Business of the House [27] 284
Canadian Cattle Importation [24] 32, 775
Civil Service, Res. [22] 919, 941
Civil Service Working Hours [23] 466
Clubs Registration (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [22] 787
"Contracting Out" on Railways [23] 339 ; [28] 135
Dairy Produce Committee [24] 793
Deptford Refrigerators [28] 247
Finance Bill, Com. [26] 764, 765
Financial Relations [23] 836
Foreign and Colonial Meat (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [24] 748
German Prison Labour — Importation of Goods into England [22] 341
Great Western Railway (No. 1) Bill, Lords Amendts. to Commons Amendts. [27] 791
Indian Army Officers' Debts [28] 266

Ireland
Arran Island Evictions [23] 619, 972
Ballygurteen Postal Arrangements [28] 249
Board of Agriculture [22] 346, 686
Board of Irish Lights—Contracts, &c. [22] 572 ; [23] 325, 619, 841 ; [26] 788 ; [27] 370, 1403, 1583
Bray Harbour [27] 799
Cattle Traffic—Through Rates [26] 445 ; [27] 797 ; [28] 134
Cholera Precautions [27] 368
College of Science, Dublin [26] 437
Compulsory Education [23] 20 ; [24] 1270, 1543
Conveyance of Harvesters [26] 446
Co-operative Farming [24] 1529
County Court Administration [25] 171
Crop Seeds [26] 439
Curragh Camp Works—Killaloe Slates, &c. [24] 1269
Dublin Post Office [22] 690 ; [23] 965, 966 ; [24] 1182, 1269, 1529 ; [25] 165, 166 ; [27] 1397
Education Act [22] 334 ; [23] 20, 619 ; [24] 21
Education Fees [25] 25
Electoral Divisions, Valuation of [25] 26
German Spirits and Irish Whisky [24] 45, 797, 1535 ; [25] 35 ; [26] 796
Government Contracts and Trade Union Wages [28] 245
Haulbowline Dockyard [22] 1006
Irish Language in Schools [27] 358
Irish-Speaking Magistrates [22] 565 ; [23] 27
Labourers' Cottages, Dunshaughlin [23] 827
Land Agents as Magistrates [27] 1562
Lisburn Registrar of Deaths [22] 679
Longbourne, Colonel, R.M., and the Clanricarde Agent [27] 1390
Mail Service Tenders [25] 32

[*cont.*

FIELD, Mr. W.—*cont.*
Ireland—*cont.*
Manuscripts, Grants for Publication of [22] 582
Mixed Trains [24] 800
Ordnance Survey Department [23] 28 ; [26] 563 ; [28] 1256
Pembroke Township [28] 10
Petty Sessions Clerks as Land Agents—Case of Mr. Turner [26] 435
Phœnix Park Grazings [23] 1102
Registry of Deeds Staff [24] 1269 ; [27] 369
Richmond Asylum [24] 778
Schull and Skibbereen Light Railway [23] 29
Small Holdings, Res. [23] 401
Southern Railway Bill [23] 827
Teachers' Pension Scheme [25] 170
Veterinary College [22] 345 ; [25] 26
Waterford Lunatic Asylum [22] 565
Irish Education Act (1892) Amendment Bill, Intro. [22] 787
Leasehold Property Bill, Intro. [23] 427
Mersey Docks Cattle Trade [27] 372, 798, 1011 ; [28] 130, 131
Public Libraries (Ireland) Acts Amendment, Bill [22] 334 ; Intro. [23] 748 ; Re-com. [27] 784
Queen's Speech
Dynamite Prisoners [22] 225
Ireland, Administration of [22] 293
Railway Department of the Board of Trade Officials [26] 244
Solicitors (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [22] 787 ; 2R. [23] 426
Spirits, Imported [27] 793
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill—Eviction of John Mackey [24] 1270
Trade and Agriculture, Depression of—Amendt. to Address in Answer to Queen's Speech [22] 92
Tuberculosis Commission Report [22] 340 ; [24] 783 ; [26] 565

FIJI
Administration of, Q. Mr. Byles ; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 4 [25] 311
Native Outbreak, Qs. Mr. Hogan ; As. Mr. Buxton *July* 13 [26] 1560 ; *Aug* 7 [28] 261
Taxation, Q. Mr. Hogan ; A. Mr. Buxton *July* 24 [27] 794

Filey Brigg Shipwreck
Q. Mr. J. E. Ellis ; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 23 [23] 1080

Finance Accounts
Paper pres. ; to be printed *July* 2 [26] 772

Finance Bill
c. Intro., Read 1° *April* 25 [23] 1384
Second Reading *May* 7 [24] 489 ; Debate adjourned

[*cont.*

Finance Bill—cont.

Debate resumed and further adjourned *May* 8, 610

Read 2° *May* 10, 814

Order for Com. read *May* 24 [24] 1200; Instr. to Com. (Sir J. Lubbock), 1206; *Division*, 1218

Con. in Com.

(*First Night*)—*cl.* 1 [24] 1218; Amendt. (Sir J. Lubbock's); Ruled out of Order, 1219; Motion to report Progress (Mr. A.J. Balfour), 1221; *Division*, 1236; Motion to postpone *cl.* 1 (Mr. Hanbury), 1236; *Division*, 1240; Amendt. (Mr. G. Bowles's), 1241; *Division*, 1251; R.P.

(*Second Night*) — *May* 28 [24] 1452; Amendts. (Mr. Hanbury's), 1458; Negatived; (Mr. Hanbury's), 1470; Withdrawn; (Mr. Heneage's), 1474; Withdrawn; (Mr. Heneage's), 1490; *Division*, 1494; R.P.

(*Third Night*) —*May* 29 [24] 1546; Amendts. (Mr. Bartley's), 1547; Withdrawn; (Sir R. Webster's), 1558; *Division*; Amendt. negatived, 1610; R.P.

(*Fourth Night*)—*May* 31 [25] 83; Amendts.; (Mr. Jeffreys's), 86; Negatived; (Mr. Butcher's), 113; Negatived; R.P.

(*Fifth Night*)—*June* 4 [25] 314; Amendts:; (Mr. Byrne's), 319; Negatived; (Mr. G. Bowles's), 334; Negatived; (Mr. G. Lawson's), 339; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Ambrose's), 348; Ruled out of Order; (Commander Bethell's), 348; *Division*; Negatived; Clause agreed to

Cl. 2; Amendt; (Mr. Byrne's), 383; *Division*; Negatived; R.P.

(*Sixth Night*)—*June* 5 [25] 434; Amendts.; (Sir G. Baden-Powell's), 436; Withdrawn; (Mr. Bryce's), 441; Withdrawn; (Mr. Bartley's), 455; Withdrawn; (Mr. Byrne's), 456; *Division*; Negatived; Amendts. ruled out of Order, 457; Mr. G. Lawson's), 458; Withdrawn; (Mr. Butcher's), 468; Withdrawn; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 470; Agreed to; (Mr. Brodrick's), 475; Withdrawn; (Mr. Wyndham's), 476; Withdrawn; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 479; Agreed to; (Mr. Bartley's), 480; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. G. Bowles's), 487; *Division*; Negatived; R.P.

(*Seventh Night*)—*June* 6 [25] 497; Amendts.; (Sir R. Temple's), 497; Negatived; (Mr. Courtney's), 519; Withdrawn; (Mr. Darling's), 526; Withdrawn; (Mr. Byrne's), 529; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Bartley's), 530; Negatived; (Mr. Bartley's), 532; Withdrawn; (Mr. Butcher's), 534; Withdrawn; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 535; Agreed to; (Mr. H. Hobhouse's), 537; Amendt. to the proposed Amendt; (Mr. Bousfield's), 540; R.P.

(*Eighth Night*)—*June* 7 [25] 595—Debate resumed on Mr. Bousfield's Amendt. to the proposed Amendt.; Mr. Bousfield's Amendt. withdrawn; Amendts. to the proposed Amendt.; (Mr. Matthews's), 613; Withdrawn; (Sir J. Lubbock's), 617; *Division*; Negatived; Original Amendt. negatived; (Sir M H. Beach's), 618; Withdrawn; (Mr. Butcher's), 621; Agreed to; (Mr. T. H. Bolton's), 622, 629; Withdrawn; (Mr. Byrne's), 631; Ruled out of Order; (Mr. G. Lawson's), 633; Withdrawn; (Colonel Kenyon-Slaney's), 634; Withdrawn; Clause, as amended, agreed to

Cl. 3; Amendts.; (Mr. Hanbury's), 637; Agreed to; (Sir M. H. Beach's), 637; *Division*; Negatived; R.P.

(*Ninth Night*)—*June* 8 [25] 694; Amendts.; (Colonel Kenyon-Slaney's), 700; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 717; Agreed to; (Mr. Butcher's), 721; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. G. Lawson's), 721; Withdrawn; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 727; Agreed to; (Mr. G. Lawson's), 728; Withdrawn; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 733; Agreed to; *Division*; Clause, as amended, agreed to

Cl. 4, 746; Amendts.; (Mr. W. Ambrose's), 746; Withdrawn; (Mr. Butcher's), 747; Negatived; (Mr. Bartley's), 752; Withdrawn; (Mr. W. Ambrose's), 756; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Butcher's), 757; *Division*; Negatived; R.P.

(*Tenth Night*)—*June* 11 [25] 852; Amendts.; (Mr. G. Murray's), 854; Withdrawn; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 854; Agreed to; (Mr. Butcher's), 855; Agreed to; (Mr. Bartley's), 857; Withdrawn; (Mr. Byrne's), 858; Withdrawn; (Mr. G. Lawson's), 860; Withdrawn; (Mr. Butcher's), 867; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. G. Lawson's), 871; Negatived; (Mr. Butcher's), 872; Amendt. to the proposed Amendt. (Sir W. Harcourt's), 873; *Division*; Words, as amended, added; Clause, as amended, agreed to

Cl. 5; Amendts.; (Mr. Byrne's), 881; Negatived; (Mr. Butcher's), 882; *Division*; Negatived; R.P.

(*Eleventh Night*)—*June* 12 [25] 928; Amendts.; (Mr. G. Lawson's), 929; Withdrawn; (Sir R. Temple's), 932; Withdrawn; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 935; Amendts. to the proposed Amendt.; (Sir J. Lubbock's), 936; Withdrawn; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 936; Withdrawn; (Mr. W. Ambrose's), 942; *Division*; Words inserted; Amendts.; (Mr. Bousfield's), 946; Withdrawn; (Sir J. Lubbock's), 948; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 963; Amendt. proposed to the said Amendt. (Mr. Butcher's), 965; Amendt., as amended, agreed to; (Mr. G. Lawson's), 968; Withdrawn; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 971; Agreed to; (Sir R. Webster's), 971; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Bartley's), 976; Agreed to; Words inserted; (Sir R. Webster's), 983; Agreed to; (Mr. G. Lawson's), 983; Negatived; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 984; Agreed to; (Sir R. Temple's), 985; *Division*; Negatived; R.P.

Finance Bill—cont.

(*Twelfth Night*)—*June* 14 [25] 1102; Amendts.; (Sir M. H. Beach's), 1102; Amendt. to the proposed Amendt. (Mr. G. Lawson's), 1103; Agreed to; Amendt., as amended, agreed to; (Mr. Johnson-Ferguson's), 1103; Agreed to; (Mr. Jeffreys's), 1104; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Johnson-Ferguson's), 1108; Withdrawn; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1109; Amendt. to the proposed Amendt. (Mr. Brodrick's) 1111; Withdrawn, 1114; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1114; Agreed to; (Mr. Heneage's), 1114; Withdrawn; (Mr. P. Williams's), 1116; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Shaw Stewart's), 1123; *Division*; Negatived; (Sir G. Baden-Powell's), 1128; Withdrawn; (Colonel Kenyon-Slaney's), 1137; Withdrawn; (Mr. Bartley's), 1140; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Bartley's), 1153; Withdrawn; Clause, as amended, agreed to

(*Thirteenth Night*)—*June* 15 [25] 1231

Cl. 6; Amendts.; (Mr. G. Lawson's), 1231; Withdrawn; (Mr. Heneage's), 1232; Withdrawn; (Mr. H. Johnstone's), 1233; Withdrawn; (Mr. Byrne's), 1236; Withdrawn; (Mr. Bartley's), 1238; Withdrawn; (Mr. G. Lawson's), 1241; Withdrawn; (Sir W. Harcourt's), 1247; Agreed to; (Sir M. H. Beach's), 1249; Withdrawn; (Colonel Kenyon-Slaney's), 1254; Withdrawn; (Mr. Courtney's), 1257; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Bartley's), 1270; Withdrawn; (Mr. Bartley's), 1290; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Carson's), 1292; Withdrawn; (Sir W. Harcourt's), 1299; Agreed to; (Mr. Butcher's), 1299; Agreed to; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1299; Agreed to; (Mr. A. J. Balfour's), 1304; Agreed to; (Mr. T. H. Bolton's), 1309; Withdrawn; (Mr. G. Bowles's), 1310; Agreed to; (Sir W. Harcourt's), 1310; Agreed to; R.P.

(*Fourteenth Night*)—*June* 18 [25] 1356; Amendts.; (Mr. Bartley's), 1358, 1361, 1363, 1365; Withdrawn; (Mr. Griffith-Boscawen's), 1366; Agreed to; (Mr. G. Lawson's), 1368: Withdrawn; (Mr. W. Ambrose's), 1369; Withdrawn; (Mr. Bartley's), 1373; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Byrne's), 1382; Negatived; Clause, as amended, agreed to

Cl. 7 [25] 1396; Amendts.; (Mr. G. Bowles's), 1396; Amendt., as amended, agreed to; (Mr. T. H. Bolton's), 1397; Agreed to; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1397; Agreed to; (Mr. T. H. Bolton's), 1400; Withdrawn; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1409; *Division*; Amendt., as amended, agreed to, (Sir M. H. Beach's), 1417; Withdrawn; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1419; Agreed to; (Sir R. Webster's), 1419; Agreed to; (Mr. Butcher's), 1420; *Division*; Negatived; (Sir R. Webster's), 1422; Withdrawn; (Mr. G. Bowles's), 1423; Agreed to; (Sir J. Lubbock's), 1424; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1425; Agreed to; (Sir J. Lubbock's), 1426; Negatived; R.P.

Finance Bill—cont.

(*Fifteenth Night*)—*June* 19 [25] 1476; Amendts.; (Mr. G. Bowles's), 1477; *Division*; Negatived; (Sir J. Lubbock's), 1480; Withdrawn; (Mr. G. Bowles's), 1481; Withdrawn; (Mr. Hanbury's), 1482; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Butcher's), 1494; Agreed to; (Mr. Hanbury's), 1495; Withdrawn; (Mr. Bartley's), 1499; Withdrawn; (Mr. T. H. Bolton's), 1499; *Division*; Agreed to; (Mr. Butcher's), 1501; Withdrawn; (Mr. Byrne's), 1503; Withdrawn; (Mr. Byrne's), 1507; Negatived; (Mr. Bartley's), 1509; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Butcher's), 1510; Amendt., as amended, agreed to; (Sir R. Webster's), 1513; Agreed to; Clause, as amended, agreed to

Cl. 8, 1514; Amendt.; (Sir W. Harcourt's), 1515; Agreed to

Cl. 9; Amendts.; (Sir R. Webster's), 1517; Negatived; (Mr. T. H. Bolton's), 1523; Withdrawn; (Mr. G. Bowles's), 1524; Agreed to; (Mr. T. H. Bolton's), 1525; Withdrawn; (Mr. Byrne's), 1528; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. T. H. Bolton's), 1530; Withdrawn; (Mr. Bartley's), 1531; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. G. Bowles's), 1537; Withdrawn; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1539, 1541; Agreed to; (Mr. Butcher's), 1541; Negatived; (Mr. Butcher's), 1541; Agreed to; (Mr. T. H. Bolton's), 1542; Agreed to; (Sir R. Webster's), 1542; Withdrawn; Clause, as amended, agreed to; R.P.

(*Sixteenth Night*)—*June* 21 [25] 1651

Cl. 10; Amendts.; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1651; Agreed to; (Mr. Bartley's), 1651; Negatived; (Sir R. Webster's), 1652; Withdrawn; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1652; Agreed to; (Sir G. Baden-Powell's), 1652; Withdrawn; (Mr. G. Bowles's), 1656; Withdrawn; (Mr. G. Lawson's), 1657; Withdrawn; (Sir R. Webster's), 1661; Withdrawn; (Sir R. Webster's), 1662; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. G. Lawson's), 1665; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. T. H. Bolton's), 1664; *Division*; Negatived; (Sir M. H. Beach's), 1675; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1679; Agreed to; Clause, as amended, agreed to

Cl. 11; Amendts.; (Mr. G. Lawson's), 1680; Withdrawn; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1681; Agreed to; (Lord Burghley's), 1682; Negatived; (Sir R. Webster's), 1684; Negatived; (Sir R. Webster's), 1684; Agreed to; (Sir R. Webster's), 1684; Withdrawn; Clause, as amended, agreed to

Cl. 12; Amendts.; (Sir R. Webster's), 1686; Agreed to; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1687; Agreed to; Clause, as amended, agreed to

Cl. 13; Amendts.; (Mr. Knox's), 1687; Agreed to; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1688; Agreed to; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1691; Amendt. to the proposed Amendt.; (Mr. G. Lawson's), 1691; Withdrawn;

[*cont.*

Finance Bill—cont.

Original Amendt. agreed to; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1695; Agreed to; Clause, as amended, agreed to

Cl. 14 (*Scale of Rates of Estate Duty*), 1700; Amendt.; (Mr. Bartley's), 1702; *Division*; Negatived; R.P.

Res. to authorise *Cl.* 15, Con. in Com. of Ways and Means and agreed to *June* 21, 1649

(*Seventeenth Night*)—*June* 22 [26] 23

Cl. 14; Amendts.; (Mr. Bartley's), 23; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. G. Bowles's), 25; Agreed to; Amendt., as amended, agreed to; (Mr. H. Johnstone's), 25; *Division*; Negatived; Motion that the Clause stand part of the Bill, 46; *Division*, 56; Clause, as amended, agreed to

Cl. 15; Amendts.; (Mr. Brodrick's), 56, 59; Withdrawn; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 60; Agreed to; (Mr. Byrne's), 61; Withdrawn; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 62; Agreed to; Motion that Clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill, 65; *Division*, 86; Clause, as amended, agreed to

Cl. 16; Amendts.; (Mr. H. Johnstone's), 88; *Division*; Negatived; R.P.

(*Eighteenth Night*)—*June* 25 [26] 137; Debate resumed; that *Cl.* 16 stand part of the Bill; Agreed to

Cl. 17; Amendts; (Sir S. Montagu's), 141; Withdrawn; (Sir J. Lubbock's), 148; Withdrawn; (Sir R. Webster's), 150; Negatived; (Mr. R. T. Reid's) 151; Agreed to; (Sir R. Webster's), 151; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 157; Agreed to; (Sir R. Webster's), 158; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 164; Amendt. to the proposed Amendt.; (Sir R. Webster's), 165; Withdrawn; Mr. R. T. Reid's Amendt. agreed to; (Mr. Dodd's), 167; Withdrawn; (Mr. Brodrick's), 170; Withdrawn; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 174; Agreed to; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 174; Amendt. to the proposed Amendt.; (Mr. Butcher's), 175; *Division*; Negatived; Mr. R. T. Reid's Amendt. agreed to; Clause, as amended, agreed to

Cl. 18; Amendts.; (Sir R. Webster's), 192; Agreed to; (Mr. Ambrose's), 193; Withdrawn; (Sir R. Webster's), 194; Negatived; (Mr. G. Lawson's), 195; Negatived; (Sir R. Webster's), 198; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. G. Bowles's), 200; *Division*; Negatived; R.P.

(*Nineteenth Night*)—*June* 26 [26] 248; Amendts.; (Mr. Byrne's), 250; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. T. H. Bolton's), 253; Withdrawn; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 253; Agreed to; Clause, as amended, agreed to

Cl. 19; Amendts.; (Mr. J. B. Balfour's), 253; Agreed to; (Mr. G. Murray's), 255; Agreed to; (Mr. G. Murray's), 260; Negatived; (Mr. G. Murray's), 266; Withdrawn; Clause, as amended, agreed to

[*cont.*

Finance Bill—cont.

Cl. 20; Amendt.; (Mr. Hanbury's), 267; Agreed to; Clause, as amended, agreed to

Cls. 21 and 22; Motion to leave out Clause 21; (Mr. H. Farquharson), 268; Negatived; Clauses agreed to

Cl. 23; Amendt.; (Colonel Lockwood's), 276; *Division*; Negatived; Clause agreed to; R.P.

(*Twentieth Night*)—*June* 27 [26] 322

Cl. 24; Amendts.; (Dr. Macgregor's), 327; Negatived; (Mr. A. C. Morton's), 332; Withdrawn; (Mr. G. Lawson's), 333; Negatived; Clause agreed to

Cl. 25; Amendts.; (Mr. Quilter's), 335; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Bigwood's), 369; Negatived; Clause agreed to

Cl. 26; Agreed to, 372

Cl. 27; Motion that the Clause stand part of the Bill, 372; *Division*; Agreed to; R.P.

(*Twenty-first Night*)—*June* 28 [26] 465

Cl. 28; Motion that the Clause stand part of the Bill; Agreed to

Cl. 29; Amendts.; (Mr. Martin's), 466; Withdrawn; (Sir M. Stewart's), 469; Withdrawn; (Mr. Bartley's), 470; Withdrawn; (Colonel H. Vincent's), 480; *Division*; Negatived; (Sir J. Lubbock's), 484; Agreed to; (Mr. Renshaw's), 487; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Biddulph's), 491; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Darling's), 494; Withdrawn; Clause, as amended, agreed to

Cl. 30; Agreed to, 500

Cl. 31; Amendts.; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 500; Agreed to; (Mr. Griffith-Boscawen's), 500; Negatived; (Mr. Newdigate's), 503; R.P.

(*Twenty-second Night*)—*June* 29 [26] 579; Debate resumed on Mr. Newdigate's Amendt.; Withdrawn; (Mr. Strachey's), 597; Withdrawn; (Mr. Everett's), 611; Agreed to; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 611; Agreed to; Clause, as amended, agreed to

Cls. 32 to 36; Agreed to, 613

Cl. 37; Amendt.; (Lord G. Hamilton's), 613; *Division*; Negatived; Clause agreed to

Cl. 38; Agreed to, 621

New Clauses

(*Exception for transactions for money consideration*), (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 621 Agreed to

(*Appeal from Commissioners*), (Mr. R T. Reid's), 621; Amendts.; (Sir M. H. Beach's), 622; Agreed to; (Major Darwin's), 626; Withdrawn; (Sir M. H. Beach's), 636; Agreed to, with an Amendt.; (Mr. Butcher's), 638; *Division*; Negatived; (Sir M. H. Beach's), 641; Agreed to

[*cont.*

Finance Bill—cont.

(*Commutation of duty on interest in expectancy*), (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 642; Amendts.; (Sir R. Webster's), 642; Agreed to; (Sir R. Webster's), 644; *Division*; Negatived

(*Exemption from Estate Duty*), (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 645; Amendts. (Mr. Bartley's), 646; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. G. Bowles's), 649; Withdrawn; (Mr. A. J. Balfour's), 653; Withdrawn; Clause added to the Bill; R.P.

(*Twenty-third Night*)—*New Clauses continued—July* 2 [26] 697

(*Exception as to property in British Possessions*), (Sir W. Harcourt's), 697; Agreed to

(*Commissioners may amend assessment in certain cases*), (Sir J. Lubbock's), 724; *Division*; Negatived

(*Works of Art*), (Mr. Byrne's), 728; *Division*; Negatived

(*Power of Court to vary settlements*), (Viscount Cranborne's), 736; Negatived

(*Value of an Estate in Ireland*), (Mr. Bartley's), 742; *Division*; Negatived

(*Exemption of pensions payable to widows*), (Sir A. Scoble's), 746; Withdrawn

(*Appearance on appeals*), (Mr. B. Roberts's), 748; Negatived

(*Protection of purchasers, mortgagees, trustees, &c.*), (Mr. Butcher's), 750; Withdrawn

Schedules, 751; Amendts.; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 751; Agreed to

Bill reported, 751

Re-committed in respect of Clause 27, 751; Motion to leave out the Clause; (Mr. Clancy), 756; *Division*, 771; Bill reported, as amended

As amended, considered

(*First Night*)—*July* 9 [26] 1198

New Clauses

(*No Estate Duty shall be paid on interest in expectancy before it falls into possession*), Sir M. H. Beach's), 1200; *Division*; Negatived

(*Legacy and Succession Duties on interests in expectancy in certain cases*), (Sir M. H. Beach's), 1209; *Division*; Negatived

(*Land to be taken in lieu of payment in certain cases*), (Mr. Chaplin's), 1226; *Division*; Negatived

(*Provision for Estate Duty by Life Insurance*), (Mr. Heneage's), 1242; Withdrawn

(*Exemption of estates of* £5,000 *of persons killed in discharge of public duty*), (Mr. Bartley's), 1249; *Division*; Negatived

(*If estate becomes again leviable within eight years half duty only be charged*), (Mr. Courtney's), 1260; *Division*; Negatived

[*cont.*

Finance Bill—cont.

(*Remission of Estate Duty on property passing to wife or husband*), (Mr Byrne's), 1264; *Division*; Negatived

(*Friendly Societies (exemption)*), (Mr. Butcher's), 1272; *Division*; Negatived

(*Second Night—July* 10 [26] 1315

(*Power of Court to vary settlements*), (Sir R. Webster's), 1316; *Division*; Negatived

(*Payment of duties in advance*), (Mr. Butcher's), 1330; *Division*; Negatived

(*Works of Art. Registration*), (Mr. Byrne's), 1344; *Division*; Negatived

(*Works of Art exemption from duty*), (Sir R. Webster's), 1357; *Division*; Negatived

(*Insurances for Estate and Settlement Duty*), (Mr. Byrne's), 1373; *Division*; Negatived

(*Gifts to the Nation, or any municipal body or public institution*), (Mr. Butcher's), 1381; *Division*; Negatived

(*Third Night*)—*July* 11 [26] 1394

Amendments

(Mr. Butcher's), 1395; Negatived; (Sir R. Temple's), 1399; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1406; Agreed to; (Mr. G. Bowles's), 1408; Negatived; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1412; Agreed to; (Mr. G. Bowles's), 1414; Withdrawn; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1415; Amendt. to the proposed Amendt.; (Mr. Byrne's), 1417; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Byrne's), 1422; Negatived; Mr. R. T. Reid's Amendt. agreed to; (Mr. Byrne's), 1424; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Butcher's), 1425; Agreed to; (Mr. G. Bowles's), 1426; Withdrawn; (Mr. Dodd's), 1426; Agreed to; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1427, 1428, 1429; Agreed to; (Mr. Butcher's), 1430; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Butcher's), 1433; Agreed to; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1433; Agreed to; (Mr. Butcher's), 1433; *Division*; Negatived

(*Fourth Night*)—*July* 12 [26] 1489

(Mr. Byrne's), 1490; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Byrne's), 1496; Withdrawn; (Mr. Brodrick's), 1501; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Byrne's), 1508; Negatived; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1509; Agreed to; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1509; Amendts. to the proposed Amendt.; (Mr. G. Bowles's), 1511; Negatived; (Mr. J. Lowther's), 1513; Agreed to; Amendt., as amended, agreed to; (Sir R Webster's), 1515; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1518; Agreed to; (Mr. G. Bowles's), 1518; Agreed to; (Mr. Johnson-Ferguson's), 1518; Agreed to; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1520; Amendts. to the proposed Amendt.; (Sir R. Webster's), 1521; *Division*; Negatived; (Sir R. Webster's), 1526; Withdrawn; (Mr. G. Lawson's), 1527; Negatived; (Sir R. Temple's), 1528; Withdrawn; (Mr. Brodrick's), 1532; Agreed to; Amendt.;

[*cont.*

Finance Bill—cont.

as amended, agreed to ; (Mr. Butcher's), 1533 ; Withdrawn ; (Mr. H. Johnstone's), 1535 ; *Division* ; Negatived ; (Mr. G. Lawson's), 1538 ; *Division* ; Negatived ; (Sir R. Webster's), 1545 ; Withdrawn ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1545 ; Agreed to ; (Mr. G. Bowles's), 1546 ; *Division* ; Negatived ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1547 ; Agreed to

Fifth Night)—July 13 [26] 1575

(Sir M. H. Beach's), 1575 ; Agreed to ; (Mr. G. Lawson's), 1577 ; Withdrawn ; (Mr. Hanbury's), 1578 ; Withdrawn ; (Sir R. Temple's), 1579 ; Withdrawn ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1580 ; Agreed to ; (Sir M. H. Beach's), 1580, 1581 ; Agreed to ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1581 ; Agreed to ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1581 ; Amendt. to the proposed Amendt. ; (Mr. G. Lawson's), 1582 ; Negatived ; Mr. R. T. Reid's Amendt. agreed to ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1586 ; Amendt. to the proposed Amendt. ; (Mr. Byrne's), 587 ; Withdrawn ; Words, as amended, inserted ; (Colonel Kenyon-Slaney's), 1589 ; Ruled out of Order ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1590 ; Agreed to ; (Mr. Byrne's), 1590 ; Withdrawn ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1591 ; Agreed to ; (Sir R. Webster's), 1592 ; Negatived ; (Mr. Butcher's), 1593 ; Agreed to ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1594 ; Amendt. to the proposed Amendt. ; (Sir A. Rollit's), 1598 ; Withdrawn ; Mr. R. T. Reid's Amendt. withdrawn ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1610 ; Agreed to ; (Mr. Byrne's), 1613 ; Withdrawn ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1613 ; Agreed to ; (Sir R. Temple's), 1614 ; Negatived ; (Sir R. Webster's), 1614 ; *Division* ; Negatived ; (Mr. Byrne's), 1615 ; Negatived ; (Sir R. Temple's), 1616 ; Negatived ; (Mr. Butcher's), 1616 ; Withdrawn ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1621 ; Agreed to ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1623 ; Amendt. to the proposed Amendt. (Mr. Butcher's), 1623 ; Agreed to ; Amendt., as amended, agreed to ; (Mr. Butcher's), 1625 ; *Division* ; Negatived ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1629, 1630 ; Agreed to ; (Sir R. Webster's), 1630 ; Negatived ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1630 ; Agreed to ; (Mr. Byrne's), 1631 ; *Division* ; Negatived ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1638 ; Agreed to ; (Sir R. Webster's), 1639 ; *Division* ; Negatived ; (Mr. Dodd's), 1643 ; Agreed to ; (Mr. Byrne's), 1643 ; Agreed to ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1644 ; Agreed to ; (Mr. G. Bowles's), 1644 ; Agreed to ; (Mr. Dodd's), 1645 ; Withdrawn ; (Mr. Butcher's), 1645 ; Withdrawn ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1646 ; Agreed to ; (Sir R. Webster's), 1646 ; Negatived ; (Sir R. Webster's), 1649 ; *Division* ; Negatived ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1651 ; Amendt. to the proposed Amendt. ; (Mr. Byrne's), 1651 ; Withdrawn ; Words inserted ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1652 ; Agreed to ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 1653 ; Amendt. to the proposed Amendt. ; (Mr. Bartley's), 1654 ; Withdrawn ; Words inserted

[*cont.*

Finance Bill—cont.

(*Sixth Night*)—*July* 16 [27] 31 ; Amendts. ; (Sir J. Lubbock's), 32 ; Withdrawn ; (Mr. Bartley's), 36 ; Negatived ; (Sir W. Harcourt's), 37 ; Amendts. to the proposed Amendt. (Mr. G. Bowles's), 38 ; Negatived : (Sir J. Lubbock's), 41 ; Negatived ; (Sir W. Harcourt's), 43 ; Agreed to ; (Sir J. Lubbock's), 43 ; Agreed to ; (Mr. Freeman-Mitford's), 44 ; Negatived ; Amendt. to the proposed Amendt. to the proposed Amendt. (Mr. Courtney's), 46 ; Words, as amended, inserted ; Amendts. *cont.*; (Sir W. Harcourt's), 46 ; Agreed to ; (Mr. Thornton's), 48 ; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. G. Bowles's), 50 ; Negatived ; (Mr. Butcher's), 54 ; Negatived ; (Sir M. H. Beach's), 57 ; Agreed to ; (Mr. Butcher's), 57 ; *Division* ; Negatived ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 66, 67 ; Agreed to ; (Mr. Bartley's), 69 ; *Division* ; Negatived ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 78 ; Agreed to ; (Sir M. H. Beach's), 79 ; Withdrawn ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 82, 83 ; Agreed to ; (Mr. G. Bowles's), 86 ; Negatived ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 87 ; Agreed to ; (Mr. Brodrick's), 88 ; Negatived ; (Mr. Bousfield's), 96 ; Negatived ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 96 ; Agreed to ; (Mr. Byrne's), 97 ; *Division* ; Negatived ; (Mr. Bousfield's), 98 ; Negatived ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 101, 102 ; Agreed to ; (Mr. Byrne's), 102 ; Negatived ; (Mr. J. B. Balfour's), 103, 104 ; Agreed to ; (Mr. G. Murray's), 104 ; Agreed to ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 105 ; Agreed to ; (Mr. Bigwood's), 106 ; Withdrawn ; (Mr. Round's), 107 ; Withdrawn ; (Mr. Darling's), 109 ; Agreed to ; (Sir W. Harcourt's), 113 ; Agreed to ; (Mr. Bartley's), 114 ; Agreed to ; (Mr. R. T. Reid's), 114 ; Agreed to

Third Reading

July 17 [27] 180 ; *Division :*—Ayes 283 ; Noes 263 ; Bill read 3°, and passed, 273

l. Read 1ª *July* 19 [27] 353

Read 2ª *July* 26, 953

Com. ; Reported ; Standing Com. negatived *July* 27, 1109

Read 3ª, and passed *July* 30, 1222

Royal Assent *July* 31

[57° & 58° Vic. c. 30]

Finance Bill

Q. Mr. Bartley ; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 30 [23] 1682 ; Q. Mr. Weir ; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 19 [25] 1476 ; Q. Sir M. H. Beach ; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 4 [26] 920

Budget Proposals, Questions Relating to (see under title *Ways and Means*)

Clause Eight, Q. Mr. G. Bowles ; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 10 [24] 797

Closure of the Spirit Duty Clause, Qs. Mr. A. J. Balfour, Mr. Bonsor ; As. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 28 [26] 457

Commissary Clerks in Scotland, Q. Mr. C. Pearson ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 21 [25] 1628

Death Duties (see under *Ways and Means*)

Debate on, Q. Mr. C. Corbett ; A. Sir W Harcourt *June* 14 [25] 1099

[*cont.*

Finance Bill—cont.

Grants to the Nation, Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 9 [26] 1195

Indian Pensions, Q. Sir R. Temple; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 26 [26] 223; Q. Sir A. Scoble; A. Sir J. Rigby *June* 21 [25] 1644

Industrial Assurance Companies, Q. Sir H. Maxwell; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 8 [24] 608

Inhabited House Duty, Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 9 [26] 1195

Inland Revenue Affidavit, Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 28 [26] 456

Irish Inland Revenue Officers, Q. Mr. T. Healy; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 21 [25] 1646; Q. Mr. Barry; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 22 [26] 18; Q. Mr. T. Healy; A. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 24 [27] 806

Property outside the United Kingdom, Death Duties on, Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 29 [26] 575

Public Trustees, Q. Mr. Heneage; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 24 [24] 1189

Res. to authorise Clause 15; Report *June* 22 [26] 23

Financial Relations of the Three Kingdoms

Ireland — Commission, &c., Q. Mr. J. Redmond; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 13 [22] 155; Q. Mr. Clancy; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 19, 570; Q. Mr. W. Field; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 19 [23] 836; Qs. Mr. Hayden, Mr. Provand; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 30, 1659; Q. Mr. Hayden; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 4 [24] 362

New Spirit Duty, Qs. Mr. Sexton, Mr. Clancy; As. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 17 [23] 636; Qs. Mr. Clancy, Mr. Goschen; As. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 20, 987

Return pres. *May* 10 [24] 912

Scotch Questions, Q. Mr. Cochrane; A. Sir W. Harcourt *Mar* 15 [22] 350; Qs. Mr. Cochrane, Dr. Macgregor; As. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 30 [23] 1683

Financial Statement (see under *Ways and Means*)

FINCH, Mr. G. H., *Rutland*

Budget Proposals—Estate Duty [24] 480

Finsbury Estate

Q. Mr. J. Rowlands; A. Mr. Leveson-Gower *April* 17 [23] 627

FINUCANE, Mr. J., *Limerick, E.*

Irish Lights Board Constitution Bill, Intro. [22] 453

Fire Brigades (Exemption from Service) Bill

c. Intro., Viscount Curzon; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 457

[Dropped]

First Offenders (see under *Law and Justice and Police*)

FISHER, Mr. W. H., *Fulham*

Civil Service Writers and Abstractors [23] 332

Companies and The Stamp Act (1891) [28] 145

Coopers' Wages at Deptford [27] 1266

Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, Com. [28] 91, 92, 196, 198, 399, 401

Evicted Tenancies in Ireland [27] 1403

Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [27] 733, 736, 737, 739; Com., 1057, 1077, 1186, 1190

Fisheries

Alleged Piracy by Essex Fishermen, Qs. Mr. Dodd, Major Rasch; As. Mr. Bryce *June* 21 [25] 1641

British Herrings in Russia—Certificates of Origin, Q. Mr. Buchanan; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 9 [22] 1576

Committees—Fishermen's Expenses, Q. Mr. Talbot; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 1 [25] 164; Q. Major Rasch; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 26 [26] 238

Destruction of Wrecks, Q. Mr. Mildmay; A. Mr. Burt *April* 24 [23] 1212

Essex Fisheries and American Cattle Ships, Q. Major Rasch; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 26 [26] 237

Essex Fishing Grounds—Removal of Cultch, &c., Q. Mr. Dodd; A. Mr. Mundella *Mar* 22 [22] 866; Qs. Mr. Dodd, Mr. Round; As. Mr. Mundella *Mar* 30, 1003; Qs. Major Rasch, Mr. Dodd; As. Mr. Mundella *April* 3, 1253; Qs. Mr. Round, Mr. Dodd; As. Mr. Mundella *May* 10 [24] 809; Q. Major Rasch; A. Mr. Burt *May* 24, 1181

Fishing Boat Lights, Qs. Mr. Crombie, Mr. G. Bowles, Mr. J. Lowther; As. Mr. Mundella *May* 3 [24] 203

Grimsby Fisher Lads, Treatment of, Qs. Mr. Nussey, Mr. A. O'Connor; As. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 9 [28] 465

Irish Questions (see under title IRELAND)

Scotch Questions (see under title SCOTLAND)

Sea Fisheries Act, 1868, Copy pres. *June* 22 [26] 22; Paper to be printed *June* 25, 204

Sea Fisheries Committee's Report, Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 5 [26] 956

Steam Trawlers and the Rule of the Road at Sea, Qs. Sir S. King, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Mr. Bryce *June* 7 [25] 563

Fishery Board (Scotland) Extension of Powers Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Buchanan; Read 1° *April* 18 [23] 811

Read 2° *May* 2 [24] 197

Con. in Com.; Reported; Read 3°, and passed *May* 7, 547

[*cont.*

Fishery Board (Scotland) Extension of Powers Bill—cont.
l. Read 1ª *May* 8, 579
Read 2ª *June* 14 [25] 1057
Com.; Reported; Re-com. to Standing Com. *June* 18, 1338
Reported *June* 19, 1448
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 21, 1618
Royal Assent *July* 3
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 14]

FitzGerald, Mr. R. U. P., *Cambridge*
Cambridge Corporation Bill, Con. [24] 341, 342, 343, 347; 3R., 580
Electric Communication with Lighthouses [25] 587
Merchant Shipping Bill, Re-com. [27] 1361, 1362
Welsh Cathedrals, Expenditure on [25] 562

FitzWygram, General Sir F., *Hants, Fareham*
Army (Annual) Bill, Com. [23] 564
Army Estimates
- Employment for Discharged Soldiers [25] 1015
- Forage and Supplies [25] 1045
- Land Forces [22] 548
- Medical Department [26] 823
- Military Education [26] 1120
- Wellington Barracks [26] 1039
- Yeomanry [26] 881

Trade and Agriculture, Depression of—Amendt. to Address in Answer to Queen's Speech [22] 94

Flamborough Head Derelicts
Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 23 [27] 668

Flash Point Oil (see *Petroleum Acts*)

Fletcher, Sir H., *Sussex, Lewes*
Army Estimates
- Rifle Ranges, &c. [25] 997; [26] 1091
- Volunteers [26] 884, 887, 903
- Wellington Barracks [26] 1040

Army Ranges for the Lee-Metford Rifle [22] 1098
Derby Day Adjournment [25] 311
Volunteer Capitation Grant [28] 440

Flynn, Mr. J. C., *Cork, N.*
Customs Outdoor Officers [28] 8
Ireland
- Castlebar, Malicious Burning at [23] 17
- Church Temporalities Commission, Payments under [23] 1584
- Clonmeen National Schools [23] 195
- Cork Murder [23] 1106; [24] 812
- Cork Sunday Disturbances [22] 1590
- Crops, Condition of [28] 1246

Flynn, Mr. J. C.—*cont.*
Ireland—*cont.*
- Dog-Muzzling Regulations at Kanturk [23] 1576
- Inmates of Workhouses [28] 8
- Kinsale Harbour Revenue [27] 164
- Labourers' Cottages at Youghal [22] 329
- Licensed Houses in Buttevant [23] 341
- Lights Board Contracts [27] 1584
- Police and Evicted Farms [28] 1233

Lead-Poisoning—Death at Greenwich Workhouse [27] 1022
Local Courts of Bankruptcy (Ireland) Bill [28] 779
Paupers Deportation (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [22] 453
Post Office and Foreign Lottery Advertisements [23] 1221
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Com. [27] 1154, 1200, 1553; 3R. [28] 326

Foley, Mr. P. J., *Galway, Connemara*
Galway and Clifden Railway [26] 789
Galway Recorder [29] 168
Supply—Collooney Railway [28] 1421

Folkestone, Viscount, *Wilts, Wilton*
India—Nursing Fever Patients [26] 1557

Food Adulteration Bill
c. Intro., Mr. W. Isaacson; Read 1° *Mar* 19 [22] 676

Food Produce Adulteration
Q. Mr. Kearley; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 28 [24] 1391
Select Com. nominated *June* 7 [25] 668
Discharges and Additions to *June* 22 [26] 104; *June* 25, 515; *July* 3, 876
Report *Aug* 1 [27] 1555
(See also under *Dairy Produce Committee*)

Foreign and Colonial Meat Bill
c. Intro., Sir A. Acland-Hood; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 453
Withdrawn *May* 2 [24] 200

Foreign and Colonial Meat (Ireland) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Field; Read 1° *May* 9 [24] 748
[Dropped]

Foreign and Colonial Meat (No. 2) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Jeffreys; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 455
2R.; Debate adjourned *April* 4, 1374
Withdrawn *July* 31 [27] 1494

Foreign Goods (Mark of Origin) Bill
c. Intro., Colonel H. Vincent; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 457
2R. negatived *May* 2 [24] 186

[*cont.*

Foreign Jurisdiction Act
Copy pres. *July* 24 [27] 896

Foreign-Made Goods, Imports of (see under *Trade, Board of*)

Foreign-Made Goods for the Public Service (see under *Government Contracts*)

Foreign Meat Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Lambert; Read 1° *Mar* 20 [22] 786
[Dropped]

FOREIGN OFFICE
Secretary of State—Earl of Kimberley
Under Secretary of State—Sir E. Grey
Diplomatic Service and the Foreign Office Amalgamation, Q. Sir A. Hayter; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 10 [28] 555
Vote for Foreign Office, Con. in Com. *Aug* 17 [28] 1459
(See under names of Foreign Countries)

Foreign Produce, Marking of (see *Marking of Foreign and Colonial Produce*)

Foreign Shell Fish Bill
c. Intro., Major Rasch; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 458
[Dropped]

Foreign Trade
Copy pres. *April* 16 [23] 592

Forest Gate School Poisoning (see under *Local Government Board*)

Forestry
Q. Mr. J. Collings; A. Mr. Gardner *June* 22 [26] 6; Q. Mr. Herbert Lewis; A. Mr. Gardner *July* 20 [27] 561

Fortescue, Earl
Luccombe and Stoke-Pero, School Accommodation at [23] 438

Forwood, Right Hon. A. B., *Lancashire, Ormskirk*
Annual Votes—Unexpended Balances [25] 1353
Finance Bill, Com. [25] 520, 949; [26] 142, 593, 652; Con., 1386, 1405, 1547
Indian Troopship "Bothnia" [22] 574
Liverpool Insanitary Houses [24] 468

[*cont.*

Forwood, Right Hon. A. B.—*cont.*
Liverpool Ward Boundaries [24] 475, 1183, 1624, 1629, 1632, 1633
Merchant Shipping Bill, 2R. [23] 107; Re-com. [28] 366
Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, Com. [28] 1020, 1022, 1025, 1026

Navy
  Dockyard Labour and Wages, Res. [22] 643
  Expenditure [26] 235
  Ironclads at Sea [22] 575
  Ordnance Stores at Malta and Gibraltar [24] 1527
  "Victoria" Disaster [22] 744
  Woolwich Arsenal—Hours of Labour [24] 225

Navy Estimates
  Manning [22] 31, 61
  Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, &c.—Personnel [23] 258, 259, 287, 288
  Works, Buildings, and Repairs [23] 300, 301, 303

Treasury, Surrenders to [23] 634
Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 1198

Foster, Mr. H. S., *Suffolk, Lowestoft*
Billingsgate Tolls [27] 1133
Christ Church Infant School, Lowestoft [27] 1131, 1580; [28] 777
Elementary School Teachers, Scarcity of [22] 691
Finance Bill, 3R. [27] 245
Geldeston Church School [26] 1066
National Telephone Company [27] 1134, 1395
Supply—Voluntary Schools and the Education Department [22] 387; [27] 1489; [28] 209
Voluntary Schools [22] 692, 693; [27] 1580

FOSTER, Sir B. W. (Secretary, Local Government Board), *Derby, Ilkeston*
Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, 2R. [27] 860
Housing of the Working Classes (Borrowing Powers) Bill, 2R. [28] 115
Local Government Provisional Order Bills, Intro. [22] 254, 895, 1688
Public Buildings (London) Bill, Com. [24] 1125
Small-Pox at Coventry [28] 997
Vaccination
  Compulsory [25] 914
  Death of a Child at Bury [23] 985
  Deaths from Small-Pox at Birmingham—Alleged Inaccurate Death Certificates [24] 34

Fowler, Mr. M., *Durham*
Moveable Dwellings Bill, Intro. [26] 319

FOWLER, Right Hon. H. H. (Secretary of State for India), *Wolverhampton, E.*
- Abor Tribes, Treaties with [25] 902
- Afghan War Promotions [26] 119
- Afghanistan—Sir M. Durand's Mission [22] 336
- Agrarian Riots in Assam [24] 1166
- Agriculturists' Grievances in Bombay [24] 1157
- Army (Annual) Bill—Punishment of Troops in India [23] 584, 585
- Army Estimates—Suez Canal Shares [26] 1145
- Army Officers' Debts [28] 266
- Army Officers' Pay [23] 970
- Baladhun Murder Case [22] 1095; [24] 597; [25] 397; [26] 1082
- Bassantpore Riot Case [25] 560
- Behar Cadastral Survey [24] 1414; [25] 296; 548, 568; [26] 1470; [27] 812; [28] 763; [29] 159
- Bengal District Magistracy [25] 6
- Bengal Jury Commission [26] 119
- Bhagalpore Murder Case [23] 202; [25] 1647
- Bhai Jasmair Singh [29] 360
- Bombay and Aden Mail Offices [28] 476
- Bulwant Rao Bute [28] 259, 1247
- Cantonment Acts [23] 1082; [26] 1570
- Catholic Ceremonies, Soldiers at [26] 438
- Chitral Affairs [25] 420, 688
- Civil Service Examinations [22] 335; [24] 1537
- Coal Mines Inspector's Report [29] 356
- Compound Householders' Votes [24] 762
- Contagious Diseases Acts [26] 439
- Contagious Diseases among the Troops [23] 1083
- Contracts for Stores [25] 41
- Cotton Goods, &c.—Import Duties [22] 327, 347, 444, 564, 1440; [27] 1141
- Councils Act, Return [22] 1093
- Criminal Procedure — Unlawful Assembly [24] 222
- Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Acts [25] 17
- Destitute East Indians at Swansea [25] 928
- Duties on Sheffield Goods [29] 360
- East India Revenue Accounts [28] 21, 768; Com., 1271, 1282, 1288, 1300, 1320, 1324, 1347
- Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, Com. [28] 83, 86, 87
- Exchange Compensation Allowances [29] 352
- Field Hospital Training [24] 785
- Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 641; Com., *cl.* 2 [25] 451, 452, 454; *cl.* 3, 650, 659; *cl.* 4, 749; *cl.* 5, 961, 1105, 1113, 1135, 1136; *cl.* 6, 1267, 1297, 1298; *cl.* 7, 1415, 1492, 1493; *cl.* 11, 1685; *cl.* 14 [26] 39, 40, 42; *cl.* 15, 59; *New cls.*, 632; Com., 1236, 1318, 1335, 1339; 3R. [27] 215, 219, 221, 222
- Financial Expenditure Inquiry [29] 351

[*cont.*

FOWLER, Right Hon. H. H.—*cont.*
- Firearm Fatalities [25] 400
- Forest Service Department [27] 1400
- Four Per Cent. Rupee Loan Convention [27] 1584
- Fulta Shooting Case [23] 205
- Government of India, Res. [28] 1133, 1140, 1142, 1149
- Home Pensions, Increase in [27] 546
- Indian Railway Companies Bill, 2R. [24] 573, 690; Com., 1495
- Inoculation against Cholera [25] 1463
- Jute Mills—Night Work [25] 180
- Kine, Slaughter of [24] 220; [27] 1026
- Kunhi Kannan, Mr. C., Charges against [22] 1094
- Lance-Corporals [25] 584
- Land Revenue [23] 839
- Legislative Councils [25] 16; [27] 1561
- Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Con. [28] 575, 576
- Madras and Bombay Commands [22] 141
- Manipuris, Wrongful Conviction of [24] 596
- Mehdi Hassan, Case of [24] 495, 1409
- Military and Orphan Funds [27] 1399
- Military Expenditure [23] 860; [27] 1021; [28] 367; [29] 353
- Mines, Women in [23] 1093, 1421
- Mints, Closing of [23] 1675
- Missionary, Imprisonment of at Bombay [24] 363
- Missions—Midnight Mission at Bombay [24] 363
- Mitchell, Mr. [27] 549
- Mutinous Conduct of Native Troops [24] 811, 1162
- Newspaper Postages [23] 204, 205
- Nursing Fever Patients [26] 1557
- Official Publications [23] 15
- Opium
  - Bombay Dens [25] 1470
  - Commission [22] 677; [23] 1407; [28] 31
  - Exports to China [24] 589; [27] 13
  - Reports [27] 1130
- Parochial Electors (Registration Acceleration) Bill, Com. [26] 1151, 1152, 1160, 1161
- Pensions and the Estate Duty [26] 223
- Period of Qualification and Elections Bill, 2R. [24] 272, 274, 276, 281, 316
- Pilot Service, Bengal [25] 902
- Police Force—Assistant Superintendent [23] 204
- Prisons, Mortality in [23] 618; [24] 31
- Public Service Commission [22] 316; [27] 1026
- Queen's Speech—Indian Finance [22] 214, 215
- Railways
  - Construction [28] 1386
  - Contracts [22] 153, 439
  - Government Funds [26] 1558
  - Public Expenditure [26] 223
  - Special Trains for Government Officials [25] 587
  - Staff [26] 1307

[*cont.*

FOWLER, Right Hon. H. H.—*cont.*
Reliefs—Arrival of Troopships [25] 8, 403
Religious Impartiality [22] 1447
Riots—Instructions as to Blank and Ball Cartridges [22] 1093
Salem Criminal Appeals [27] 14
Sandeman, Sir R. [29] 153
Sanitary Inspectors' Examinations [25] 899
Smearing of Mango Trees [24] 1414; [25] 548, 586
Special Trains for Government Officials [25] 587
Staff Corps Officers' Grievances [22] 1099; [25] 7; [26] 1308; [27] 357
Station Hospitals Savings [27] 1569
Supply
  Cholera Precautions [22] 366
  Legation and Consular Buildings in China, Indian Contribution to [22] 1086, 1088
Tariff Bill [22] 440
Telegraph Department Contracts [23] 462
Text Books in Schools [22] 1447
Troopships [27] 1572
Umaria Collieries [26] 1563
Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 1254, 1257
Waziri Expedition Medal [27] 671

FOX, Dr. J. F., *King's Co., Tullamore*
Ireland—Training Ships [22] 685

FRANCE
Anglo-Belgian Agreement and the Congo Free State (see under title AFRICA)
Assassination of President Carnot, Q. Sir G. Russell; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 28 [26] 456
  Notice of Motion for Address (Earl of Rosebery) *June* 25 [26] 105; Motion *June* 26, 205; Queen's Reply *July* 2, 657
  Notice of Motion for Address (Sir W. Harcourt) *June* 25 [26] 136; Motion *June* 26, 245; Queen's Reply *July* 2, 676
Canals, Q. Mr. Knox; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 28 [24] 1405
Customs Tariff, Q. Dr. Kenny; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 31 [25] 36
Dead British Sailors on the French Coast, Q. Mr. T. Chamberlayne; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 19 [25] 1467
Declaration of Paris, Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir C. Russell *Mar* 15 [22] 345
Equatorial Provinces of the Nile, Q. Mr. Tomlinson; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 21 [29] 177
Franco-Congolese Agreement, Qs. Sir C. Dilke, Sir A. Rollit, Mr. J. W. Lowther, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; As. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 16 [28] 1251; *Aug* 22 [29] 334, &c.
  References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 17, 1467, &c.
Herz, Dr. Cornelius, Q. Mr. Scott-Montagu; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 14 [28] 998

FRANCE—*cont.*
Madagascar — British Subjects, Q. Mr. Tritton; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 12 [25] 921
Panama Canal, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 11 [25] 788
Sierra Leone—Conflict between French and British Forces, Qs. Captain Bagot, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; As. Sir E. Grey *Mar* 20 [22] 694; Q. Captain Bagot; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 7 [25] 566; Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Sir E. Grey *July* 13 [26] 1574; Qs. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, Mr. J. W. Lowther; As. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 14 [28] 994
Uganda—White Fathers (see under AFRICA)

Franchise and Removal of Women's Disabilities Bill
c. Intro., Sir C. Dilke; Read 1° *Aug* 14 [28] 1084
[Dropped]

Franchise (England and Wales) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Barrow; Read 1° *April* 13 [23] 426
[Dropped]

Franco-Siamese Question
Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Sir E. Grey *Mar* 22 [22] 868; Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 10 [24] 794; Qs. Mr. Curzon, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir E. Grey *July* 17 [27] 166; Q. and Obs. Lord Lamington, Earl of Kimberley *July* 19 [27] 333; Q. Mr. J. W. Lowther; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 10 [28] 556; Qs. Sir R. Temple, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 10, 569
Debate on Motion for Com. of *Supply* *Mar* 30 [22] 1060
Debate on, in Com. of *Supply*, *May* 25 [24] 1310
References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *July* 30 [27] 1348, &c.; *Aug* 7 [28] 1464, &c.

FREEMAN-MITFORD, Mr. A. B., *Warwick Stratford*
Army Estimates
  Clothing, &c. [26] 970, 971, 979, 982, 985
  Forage [25] 1044
  Military Education [26] 1120
  Royal Engineers [26] 1090, 1104
Business of the House, Res. [22] 1659
Finance Bill, Con. [26] 1352, 1519, 1536; [27] 43, 46
Newcastle and Gateshead Water Bill, 2R. [24] 1522, 1523
Supply—National Gallery [22] 833

Freemantle's, Sir C., Committee
Q. Viscount Wolmer; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 5 [22] 1448

[*cont.*

Friendly Societies
Registry, Vote for, Aug 17 [28] 1482
Returns, Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 9 [28] 473
Royal Liver Society, Q. Mr. Jacks; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 14 [25] 1070

Fruit Identification Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Hozier; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 454
2R. negatived *April* 11 [23] 165

FRY, Sir T., *Darlington*
Barry Dock and Railway Act Amendment Bill [26] 563

FRYE, Mr. F. C., *Kensington, N.*
Richmond Park, Brakes in [27] 554

GALLOWAY, Earl of
Trout Fishing (Scotland) Bill, Com. [24] 1505

GARDNER, RIGHT HON. H. (President of the Board of Agriculture), *Essex, Saffron Walden*
Agricultural Depression [23] 357, 362, 363
Agricultural Depression in Essex [24] 1185, 1275; [25] 800; Res., 842
Agricultural Statistics Collection [24] 585
Allotments Returns, 207
Anthrax [22] 1251; [25] 418, 1347
Canadian Cattle Importation [22] 866; [23] 1086; [24] 32, 774, 1155, 1279, 1424, 1533, 1615, 1616; [25] 176, 398, 919, 1468; [26] 782, 1474; [27] 366; [28] 470
Cattle Weighing Machines [24] 457; [25] 13
Chailey Common [28] 258
Common Land Enclosure in Flintshire [24] 591
Commons Regulation Provisional Orders (Luton) Bill, Intro. [24] 748
Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts Amendment Bill, Intro. [26] 203; 2R. [26] 1163, 1164; [27] 330
Corn Returns [26] 453
Dartmoor Ponies [24] 467
Deptford Refrigerators [28] 247
Derelict Land in Essex [25] 1355
Diseases of Animals Bill, Intro. [24] 1503; 2R. [25] 387; Com. [28] 877; 3R., 1077, 1078
Dogs Bill, Intro. [23] 955; 2R., 1780
Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs [24] 1261
Forestry—Education, &c. [26] 7; [27] 562
Glanders in the Metropolis [25] 1346
Glebe Land Act, Sales under [26] 564
Gosport Foreign Animals Wharf [25] 1639
Irish Ordnance Survey Department [23] 29; [26] 564; [28] 1256
Journal for Agriculture [27] 378

GARDNER, Right Hon. H.—*cont.*
Margarine Act [22] 441
Marking of Foreign Meat [22] 141, 694, 1254, 1569; [23] 842, 859; [24] 1177
Merchandise Marks (Prosecutions) Bill, Intro. [24] 1503
Mersey Docks Cattle Trade—Lairages, &c. [27] 372, 798, 1011; [28] 130, 131
Official Forms and the County of London [25] 691
Ordnance Survey Maps [24] 1181
Ordnance Survey Staff [25] 1229
Pleuro-Pneumonia
  Committee's Report [23] 1222
  Kent [24] 43, 1278; [25] 429, 1229, 1468
Publications, Leaflets, &c. [24] 235; [25] 558; [26] 1480
Queen's Speech — Depression of Trade and Agriculture [22] 114
Sheep, Diseased, at Ardrishaig [26] 1556
Supply
  Agricultural Education [28] 1552, 1553, 1554
  Board of Agriculture [28] 1546, 1547, 1549
  Merchandise Marks Act [27] 1490
  Ordnance Surveys [24] 980, 984, 986, 990, 991, 992
  Swine Fever [28] 1554
Swine Fever [23] 840; [25] 809; [26] 452, 1081
Tithe Redemption at Rhyl [24] 1525
Tithes in Essex [24] 1524
Travelling Inspectors [28] 145
Weather Forecasts [24] 1184; [28] 775

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill
l. Pres., Lord Playfair; Read 1ª *May* 1 [24] 18
Read 2ª *May* 29, 1507
Com.; Standing Com. negatived *June* 12 [25] 896
Amendts. reported *June* 14, 1058
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 15, 1204
c. Read 1° *June* 18, 1436
Read 2° *June* 26 [26] 319
Reported *July* 5, 1043
Read 3°, and passed *July* 6, 1167
Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxvii]

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill
l. Pres., Lord Playfair; Read 1ª *May* 1 [24] 18
Read 2ª *May* 29, 1507
Com.; Standing Com. negatived *June* 11 [25] 788
Amendts. reported *June* 12, 897
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 14, 1058
c. Read 1° *June* 15, 1320
Read 2° *June* 26 [26] 319
Reported *July* 5, 1043
Read 3°, and passed *July* 6, 1167
Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxviii]

[*cont.*

GATHORNE-HARDY, Hon. A. E., *Sussex, East Grinstead*
Established Church (Wales) Bill, Motion for Leave [23] 1748
Finance Bill, Com. [25] 1264, 1506

General Register Office
Q. Sir R. Temple; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 26 [27] 1012

GERMANY
Anglo-Belgian Agreement (see under title AFRICA)
"*Bluejacket,*" *Seizure of the*, Qs. Mr. C. Smith, Sir G. Baden-Powell; As. Sir E. Grey *May* 24 [24] 1172
Chisels, Fraudulently-Marked, Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; As. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 16 [28] 1212; Qs. Colonel H. Vincent; As. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 23 [29] 346, 421
Commercial Treaties, Qs. Sir A. Rollit, Sir M. H. Beach: As. Sir E. Grey *July* 20 [27] 552; Qs. Sir A. Rollit, Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir E. Grey *July* 30, 1238
English Boats Contract, Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. G. Bowles, Mr. Dane; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 1 [24] 41; Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 3, 225
Export Trade, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 5 [22] 1456
Prison-Made Goods, Importation of into England, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. Mundella *Mar* 15 [22] 341; Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. Brunner; As. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Mundella *April* 2, 1103; Q. Mr. Conybeare; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 5, 1458; Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. Darling; As. Mr. Mundella *April* 20 [23] 974; Q. Mr. J. Chamberlain; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 23, 1079; Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 23, 1096; Q. Mr. Holland; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 27, 1586; Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Mundella *May* 4 [24] 375; Q. Mr. Dodd; A. Mr. Mundella *May* 10, 766; Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 22 [26] 9; Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Sir E. Grey *July* 20 [27] 545; Qs. Colonel H. Vincent; As. Mr. Bryce *July* 30, 1240; *Aug* 16 [28] 1221
Debate on *Aug* 23 [29] 388, &c.
Russo-German Commercial Treaty, Q. Mr. J. W. Lowther; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 2 [22] 1097; Q. Mr. Holland; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 6, 1514
Silver Commission, Q. Mr. Chaplin; A. Sir E. Grey *Mar* 13 [22] 155
Trade Reports, Copy pres. *June* 5 [25] 496
Von Krause's Petition, Obs. Earl of Lauderdale, Lord Herschell *April* 26 [23] 1404

GIBBS, Mr. A. G. H., *London*
City Rate [27] 1570
Civil Service Writers [23] 1428
Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, 2R. [27] 825; Com. [28] 52, 53, 77, 103, 218, 219, 220, 381, 401

[*cont.*

GIBBS, Mr. A. G. H.—*cont.*
Juba River—Runaway Slave Settlement [23] 1079
London County Council (Tower Bridge Southern Approach) Bill, 2R. [22] 1217
Patent Agents Bill, Intro. [22] 451; 2R., 1373
Thames Conservancy Bill, 2R. [22] 1424

GIBBS, Mr. V., *Herts, St. Albans*
Barnet Local Board District [23] 1425
Established Church (Wales) Bill, Motion for Leave [23] 1733

GIBNEY, Mr. J., *Meath, N.*
Ireland
Navan Revision Court [22] 681
O'Connor, Mr M. W. [22] 445
Tithe Rent-Charge Arrears [23] 1670

GIBRALTAR
Frozen Meat Supplies, Q. Mr. Colston; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 12 [26] 1469
New Dock, Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Mr. E. Robertson *April* 12 [23] 218
References to, in Debate on the *Estimates*, *April* 12 [23] 293, 300
Ordnance Stores, Q. Mr. Forwood; A. Mr. E. Robertson *May* 29 [24] 1529

Gifts to the Nation and the Estate Duty
Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 9 [26] 1195

GILHOOLY, Mr. J., *Cork Co., W.*
Guardians of the Poor (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [22] 451
Ireland
Baltimore Fishing Industry [29] 350
Baltimore Mails [23] 985
Bantry Bay Military Works [22] 685
Board of Works Loans [22] 577, 874; [23] 1577
Castletown Berehaven Harbour [29] 351
Cork, Bandon, and South Coast Railway [23] 830
Gales—Losses to Fishermen—Life-Saving Appliances, &c. [23] 1673
Training Ships [22] 685; [29] 351
Trawling in Bantry Bay [29] 154
West Cork Post Office [23] 331

GLADSTONE, RIGHT HON. H. J. (First Commissioner of Works), *Leeds, W.*
Beaconsfield's, Lord, Statue—Decoration of [22] 980
Building Societies Bill, 2R. [22] 1549
Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, Intro. [22] 307; 2R., 1326; Con. [27] 1607, 1612, 1614, 1615, 1616, 1620, 1621, 1627, 1630, 1638, 1642, 1646, 1651, 1653, 1654, 1659; [28] 112, 404, 407, 408, 409
Building Societies (No. 3) Bill, 2R. [24] 33

[*cont.*

GLADSTONE, Right Hon. H. J.—*cont.*
- Clarance Lanes, Roehampton [23] 1427
- Commissioner of Works Bill, Intro. [23] 1551; 2R. [24] 574
- Cromwell's Statue, Palace of Westminster [26] 1484; [29] 21
- Derelict Land in Essex [24] 1278
- Dyce's Frescoes [26] 1574
- Government Departments, Gas for [23] 828
- Government Works—Employment of Italians [25] 1350
- Green Park [25] 903
- House of Commons
  - Accommodation, Select Com. [23] 1067
  - Ladies' and the Members' Gallery [25] 1223
  - Ladies' Gallery [23] 1448; [24] 472; [25] 175, 1224
  - Structural Arrangements [22] 905
  - Ventilation [23] 1426; [27] 1269; [28] 257, 266, 557, 1380
  - Water Closets off Committee Rooms—Water Supply [28] 559, 1336
- Houses of Parliament
  - Electric Lighting [26] 1574; [28] 558
  - Gas Consumption [22] 1592
- Hyde Park [24] 1006; [25] 1219; [27] 1127
- Leeds Post Office [25] 11
- Liverpool Post Office Contract [29] 279
- Millbank Prison Site [23] 1423
- New Admiralty Building [23] 184
- Parks—Sand Heaps for Children [27] 1406
- Parliament Buildings, Labour on [25] 414
- Pistol and Revolver Accidents, Res. [22] 1042, 1043
- Richmond Park, Brakes in [27] 554
- Royal Academy Tenancy [24] 1169
- Royal Parks, Bands in [22] 1252
- St. James's Park [27] 360
- Scotch Cathedrals and Abbeys [26] 1077; [29] 278
- South Kensington Museum [22] 1515
- Supply
  - Bethnal Green Museum [22] 1080, 1081
  - British Museum [22] 1066, 1067, 1068, 1071
  - Buckingham Palace [22] 968
  - Burlington House [28] 963, 966
  - Cairo Agency House [22] 1091
  - Extension of Admiralty Buildings [22] 984, 985, 993
  - Factory Inspectors' New Offices [24] 963, 965
  - Holyrood Palace [22] 968
  - House of Commons Accommodation [22] 884
  - Houses of Parliament [22] 980, 982, 983
  - Imperial Institute [22] 1071, 1081
  - King Street, Westminster [24] 975
  - Legation and Consular Buildings in China, Indian Contribution to [22] 1082, 1086, 1088, 1089
  - Liverpool Post Office [24] 1253
  - Public Buildings [24] 963, 965, 969, 975, 976, 977

[*cont.*

GLADSTONE, Right Hon. H. J.—*cont.*
- Supply—*cont.*
  - Revenue Department Buildings [24] 933, 934, 936, 939, 945
  - Royal Palaces [22] 968, 969, 970
  - Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens [22] 972, 976
  - South Kensington Museum [22] 1079, 1080, 1081
- Victoria Tower, National Flag on [22] 702
- Westminster Abbey—Removing Houses in Old Palace Yard, &c. [25] 21

Gladstone, Right Hon. W. E.—Retirement from Office
- Reference to, in Debate in Reply to the *Queen's Speech, Mar* 12 [22] 37, 49, 61, 72; *Mar* 13, 166, 190

Glanders (see under *Agriculture*)

Glebe Lands Act, 1888, Sales under
- Q. Sir J. Savory; A. Mr. Gardner *June* 29 [26] 564

Gloucester—Prosecution for Cruelty to a Bullock
- Q. Sir W. Wedderburn; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 21 [25] 1633

Glove Fight near Clapham
- Q. Mr. Thornton; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 8 [24] 600

GODSON, Mr. A. F., *Kidderminster*
- Army Estimates—Volunteers [26] 910
- Foreign Goods (Mark of Origin) Bill, 2R. [24] 192, 193
- Supply—Voluntary Schools [22] 824

Gold and Silver Question (see under *Currency*)

GOLDSMID, Sir J., *St. Pancras, S.*
- Cardiff Corporation Bill, Con. [26] 674
- Dyce's Frescoes [26] 1574
- Electric Lighting in Parliament [26] 1574
- Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, 2R. [27] 878; Motion for Select Com., 942; [28] 46, 66, 72, 75, 76, 81, 400, 403
- Finance Bill, Com. [25] 381
- London County Council (General Powers) Bill, Con. [24] 1512
- Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Con. [24] 1670
- Supply
  - Houses of Parliament [22] 983
  - London University, &c. [24] 959
  - National Portrait Gallery [24] 965, 970
  - Rating of Government Property [27] 1277
  - South Kensington Museum [22] 1071 1074, 1077

[*cont.*

GOLDSWORTHY, Sir J.—*cont.*

- (*Rulings as Deputy Chairman*)
  - Finance Bill, Con. [25] 1537, 1692
  - Supply [22] 967, 984
  - Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill [27] 1083, 1084, 1088, 1089, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1095, 1096, 1097, 1098
  - Vote on Account [22] 831, 840, 842, 843, 844, 848, 850

GOLDSWORTHY, Major-General W. T., *Hammersmith*

- Army Estimates
  - Colonel M'Clintock [26] 1033, 1034
  - Contagious Diseases among the Troops [25] 1027
  - Medical Department [26] 824
- Chelsea Board School [24] 808
- Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, 2R. [27] 884; Con. [28] 212
- Finance Bill, Com. [26] 497; Con., 1364
- Income Tax [22] 1054
- Non-Board School Improvements [22] 962
- Rewards for the Arrest of Murderers [25] 1464
- Small Holdings (Ireland), Res. [23] 407
- Supply—British East Africa Company [27] 1336

GORST, Right Hon. Sir J. E., *Cambridge University*

- Army Estimates—Clothing—Sweating, &c. [26] 984
- Business of the House, Res. [22] 1663
- Cambridge Corporation Bill, Con. [24] 352
- Dockyard Labour and Wages, Res. [22] 627
- Finance Bill, Con. [26] 1254
- Indian Mines, Women in [23] 1093, 1421
- Merchant Shipping—Undermanning [22] 1105
- Naval Establishments, Working Hours in [22] 321
- Pauper Schools [24] 1161; [26] 121, 443
- Peers at Elections [22] 349
- Straits Settlements—Military Contribution [22] 573
- Supply
  - Appropriations in Aid [22] 375, 376, 377
  - County Courts [22] 375
  - Factory Inspectors' New Offices [24] 954, 965, 966
  - Post Office Buildings [24] 936, 938
- Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 521

GOSCHEN, Right Hon. G. J., *St. George's, Hanover Square*

- Budget [22] 1114, 1675
- Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, Con. [28] 113
- Business of the House [22] 271; [23] 223; [25] 67; [26] 577, 696; [27] 1435; [28] 32

[*cont.*

GOSCHEN, Right Hon. G. J.—*cont.*

- Civil Service, Res. [22] 934, 936
- Colonies and the Defence of the Empire [26] 425
- Death Duties in Foreign Countries [23] 1687
- East London Water Bill, 2R. [22] 1399, 1416
- Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill [23] 634; 2R. [27] 925, 935, 937, 939; Motion for Select Com., 946; Instr. to Com. [28] 39; Com., 42, 44, 47, 59, 62, 67, 70, 71, 72, 75, 77, 81, 83, 85, 86, 87, 89, 100, 102, 106, 109, 111, 112, 188, 193, 207, 216, 217, 373, 374, 375, 376, 378, 379, 389, 391, 393, 397, 399; *cl.* 3, 400, 401, 402; Con., 780, 782, 784
- Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 626, 629, 632, 636, 639, 640, 641, 644, 648, 888, 890, 897; Order for Com., 1203; Instr. to Com., 1212; Com., *cl.* 1, 1463, 1464, 1466, 1482; [25] 96, 97, 98, 102, 123, 320, 323, 324, 326, 331, 374; *cl.* 2, 437, 440, 454, 513, 527, 528, 605, 606; *cl.* 3, 644, 645, 711, 712; *cl.* 4, 859, 861, 862, 865, 870, 873, 874, 879; *cl.* 5, 933, 934, 1124; *cl.* 6, 1235, 1237, 1239, 1240, 1243, 1247, 1249, 1262, 1294, 1295, 1299; *cl.* 7, 1414, 1429, 1486, 1493, 1496, 1502, 1503; *cl.* 10, 1654; *cl.* 14, 1712, 1715; *cl.* 16 [26] 89; *cl.* 17, 171, 185, 187; *cl.* 18, 195, 196; *cl.* 20, 270; *cl.* 23, 314; *cl.* 24, 331; *cl.* 31, 589; *cl.* 37, 616, 618; *New cls.*, 649, 650, 709, 710, 720, 721, 730; Re-com., *cl.* 27, 767, 768, 769; Con., 1219, 1268, 1340, 1369, 1370, 1427, 1494, 1502, 1531, 1532, 1538, 1588, 1600, 1601, 1616, 1618, 1620; [27] 35, 42, 63, 71
- Financial Relations and the New Spirit Duty [23] 987
- Indian Finance, Debate on [27] 1585
- Merchant Shipping Bill, Re-com. [27] 950
- Navy Estimates [22] 784
  - Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, &c.—Personnel [23] 226, 244, 245, 246
  - Works, Buildings, and Repairs [23] 297
- Prize Courts Bill, 2R. [27] 950
- Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [23] 660, 666, 674, 740, 1022, 1597, 1603, 1607, 1612
- Supply—Uganda [25] 269
- Transvaal—Commandeering [26] 570
- Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 509, 511, 512, 539, 552, 1123, 1128, 1135, 1137, 1139, 1141, 1142, 1143, 1144, 1145, 1146, 1175, 1196
  - Res. to authorise Clause 15 of the Finance Bill, Com. [25] 1650
- West Highland Railway—Mallaig Railway [28] 147

Gosport Foreign Animals Wharf

- Q. Mr. Tomlinson; A. Mr. Gardner *June* 21 [25] 1638

GOURLEY, Mr. E. T., *Sunderland*

- Appropriation of Excess Navy Votes [25] 926
- Australian Station Naval Service [27] 1268

[*cont.*

GOURLEY, Mr. E. T.—*cont.*

"Galatea" Explosion [25] 903
Naval Foreign Service Relief [25] 162
Naval Manœuvres [26] 1297, 1313
Navy Estimates — Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, &c.—Personnel [23] 259
Newfoundland Treaty [24] 243, 470
Rabat, British Representation at [27] 1246
"Royal Sovereign" Battleship [24] 202
Supply—Trawling [29] 57
Torpedo Catcher Flues [27] 1244

Government Advertisements

Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 12 [26] 1471

Government Contracts

Admiralty Contracts (see under title *Navy*)
Army Contracts (see under *Army*)
Board of Trade Publications, Contract for Printing, Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. G. Bowles, Mr. Bartley; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert, Sir W. Harcourt *April* 20 [23] 977
Duration of, Q. Captain Norton; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 21 [25] 1641
Fair Wages, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 6 [26] 1068
Foreign Goods for the Public Service, Qs. Colonel H. Vincent; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 15 [25] 1212; Q. Mr. W. Isaacson; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 18, 1341
Irish Questions (see under title IRELAND)
Labour on Parliament Buildings, Q. Mr. Labouchere; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *June* 5 [25] 414
Liverpool Post Office, Q. Mr. Lawrence; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *Aug* 22 [29] 278
London Police Boots, Qs. Captain Norton, Mr. J. Rowlands, Mr. Hanbury; As. Mr. Asquith *June* 21 [25] 1640; Qs. Captain Norton; As. Mr. Asquith *June* 25 [26] 129; *June* 29, 576; *July* 12, 1467; *July* 16 [27] 28; *July* 19, 377; Debate on, in Com. of *Supply*, *Aug* 18 [28] 1591, &c.
Paper, Foreign-Made, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 26 [26] 243; Qs. Mr. Wickham, Mr. Tomlinson; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 3, 787
Printing and Fair Wages Resolution—Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, Q. Mr. Woods; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 13 [28] 770
Amendt. and Debate in Com. of *Supply* *Aug* 18 [28] 1559, &c.
Prison-Made Goods for the Post Office, Q. Mr. Matthews; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 27 [23] 1586; Q. Mr. Boulnois; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 28 [24] 1406; Qs. Mr. Muntz; As. Mr. A. Morley *June* 14 [25] 1089; *June* 15, 1222
Stamps—Contract of Messrs. De La Rue, Copy pres. *Aug* 16 [28] 1355
Stationery Office, Qs. Mr. Darling, Mr. J. Lowther; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 20 [23] 975; Q. Sir W. Hart-Dyke; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 11 [25] 791; Q. Mr. Macdonald; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 23 [29] 354
Trade Union Wages, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 24 [24] 1182

Government Departments

Gas for, Q. Mr. J. Rowlands; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *April* 19 [23] 828

Government Farms (see under *Woods and Forests and Land Revenues of the Crown*)

Government Insurances and Annuities

Accounts pres. *Mar* 29 [23] 999

Government Newspaper Publications

Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 24 [27] 795; Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir J. Rigby *July* 24, 805
"*Board of Trade Journal*"—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 18 [28] 1541, &c.

Government Property in the County of London (Contributions in Lieu of Local Rates)

Return ordered *April* 19 [23] 956
Return pres. *May* 21 [24] 995

Government Property, Rating of

Q. Mr. Darling; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 10 [24] 798; Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 31 [27] 1406
References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *July* 30 [27] 1276, &c.
Vote for, and Debate on, *Aug* 17 [28] 1397

Government Reports, Documents, and Blue Books

References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 18 [28] 1572, &c.

Government Stock, Holders of—Return

Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 7 [25] 585

Government Works — Employment of Italians

Q. Mr. J. Rowlands; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *June* 18 [25] 1350

GOWER, MR. G. G. LEVESON- (Comptroller of the Household), *Stoke-upon-Trent*

Ecclesiastical Commissioners — Finsbury Estate [23] 627
Winwick Rectory Act [26] 1082

[*cont.*

Graham, Mr. H. R., *St. Pancras, W.*
Munster Square Schools [24] 1170
Nile Reservoirs [25] 550
Truro and Newquay Junction Railway Bill, Con. [24] 1149

Granby, Marquess of, *Leicestershire, Melton*
Melton Level Crossing [24] 997
River Eye, Pollution of [28] 254

Grazing Rights and District and Parish Councils
Q. Mr. C. Hobhouse; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 25 [26] 117

Great Western and Midland Railway Companies Bill
Qs. Sir A. Rollit, Sir M. H. Beach, Mr. Tomlinson; As. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 9 [28] 481

Great Western and Midland Railway Companies (No. 2) Bill
c. Read 2° *July* 20 [27] 540
Read 3° *Aug* 8 [28] 369

Great Western Railway (No. 1) Bill
c. Read 2° *June* 12 [25] 897
Debate resumed on Instr. to Com.; Division *June* 14, 1059
Lords Amendts. to Commons Amendts. Con. *July* 24 [27] 791

Greece
Piræus and Larissa Railway Company, Q. Mr. Maclure; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 26 [23] 1431

Green Park
Q. Mr. H. Hoare; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *June* 12 [25] 903

Greene, Mr. H. D., *Shrewsbury*
Factors' Act (1889) Amendment Bill, Intro. [22] 455
Guildhall Sittings of the High Court [23] 826

Greenwich District Board (see under *Local Government Board*)

Greenwich Hospital (see under *Navy*)

Greenwich Park
Copy pres. July 10 [26] 1392

Greenwich Workhouse (see under *Local Government Board*)

Gresham University
Commission Report, &c., Q. Mr. C. Williams; A. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 22 [22] 867; Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Sir W. Harcourt *Mar* 29, 905
Notice of Res. (Sir A. Rollit) *Mar* 30 [22] 1009; Q. Mr. Benn; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 27 [23] 1575; Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 22 [24] 1003; Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 9 [28] 474
Copy pres. *June* 11 [25] 892
Law Faculty, Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Sir W. Harcourt *Aug* 10 [28] 562

GREY, Sir E. (Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs), *Northumberland, Berwick*
Africa
- Anglo-Belgian Agreement [24] 999, 1274, 1420; [25] 30, 172, 174, 312, 693, 805, 1082, 1093, 1472; [26] 118, 245, 448; [27] 28, 30, 170, 174, 378, 1265; [28] 1252
- Anglo-Portuguese Treaty [22] 695
- British East Africa Company [23] 1079; [24] 756; [29] 279, 375
- British Sphere of Influence [24] 1420
- Brussels Act [25] 813
- Congo Free State and France [25] 1082, 1095, 1637; [28] 1252
- Delagoa Bay Railway [22] 1451
- East African Agreements [25] 173
- Equatorial Provinces [29] 177
- Franco-Congolese Agreement [28] 1252
- Gunpowder in British Central Africa [26] 1478
- Juba River—Runaway Slaves [23] 1080
- Kassala, Occupation of by Italians [27] 666
- Kerckhoven's Expedition [22] 1576
- Lado—Congo Free State Expeditions [22] 699
- Manica Plateau and the Portuguese [22] 584
- Marotsiland—British South Africa Company [23] 1663
- Niger Company's Customs Duty [25] 813
- Niger Company's Territories, Trade in [25] 300, 1339
- Nile Waterway—Foreign Expeditions [24] 914, 999
- Nyassaland and the Oil Rivers Protectorate Reports [25] 180
- Nyassa-Tanganyika District, Gunpowder in [28] 18
- Oil Rivers Protectorate and the Royal Niger Company—Customs Union [26] 229
- Pemba Clove Plantations [24] 758
- Recruiting in British West Africa [24] 1415
- Sierra Leone—Conflict between French and English Forces [22] 695; [25] 566; [26] 1575; [28] 995
- Sir E. Hertslet's Map [25] 292
- Slave Trade [23] 861; [24] 602, 603, 757; [25] 286; [26] 117, 1298
- Tariff Dues in British East Africa—Sultan of Zanzibar and the Berlin Act [24] 1541
- Uganda—Sir G. Portal's Report, &c. [22] 142, 344, 1516, 1581; [23] 212, 222, 336, 339, 340, 620, 1091; [24] 487, 602, 756; [25] 413, 690, 1350

[*cont.*

GREY, Sir E.—*cont.*
- Africa—*cont.*
  - Uganda and British Central Africa Vote [29] 26
  - Uganda and Unyoro [25] 690
  - Uganda Railway [25] 1350
  - Unyoro—King Kaba Rega, &c. [22] 700; [23] 338; [25] 284, 907
  - Wadelai [24] 599, 811; [25] 413
  - Zambesi—Collision with Portuguese Troops [22] 583
  - Zanzibar Protectorate [23] 1078
- Aleppo—Barker Case [29] 162
- America, United States—Wilson Tariff [28] 1385
- Antwerp—Burial of Seamen [26] 1557
- Armenia—Prisoners, &c. [23] 210, 854; [24] 219; [25] 922; [27] 1407
- Atlantic, Derelicts in [22] 444
- Balfour, Mr. J. S.—Extradition of [23] 847; [24] 1411; [27] 553, 1585; [28] 479, 994; [29] 26, 282
- Behring Sea Arbitration [24] 236; [27] 1572
- Behring Sea Award Act [23] 1449
- Behring Sea Award Bill [22] 1574
- Behring Sea Sealers [24] 770
- Brazil
  - Alleged Outrage on a British Subject [26] 428
  - Arrests at Rio [25] 807
  - Civil War—Loss of British Officers, &c. [22] 331, 867, 868; [27] 1271
- Burmese Frontier—Anglo-Chinese Convention, &c. [22] 1098; [24] 218; [27] 167
- Central American Republic—British Trade [28] 1380
- Chili Convention, Ratification of [22] 448; [24] 39
- China
  - British Postal Agencies [25] 288
  - Importation of Machinery [26] 222
  - Tien-Tsin Postal Arrangements [25] 292
- Chino-Japanese War [25] 415; [26] 950, 1070; [27] 1027, 1263, 1575; [29] 167
  - British Squadron in Corean Waters [29] 420
  - Commercial Transactions—Neutral Vessels, &c. [28] 144; [29] 370
  - "Kow Shing," Sinking of the [28] 569; [29] 386
- Colonies, British Trade with [29] 423
- Commercial Treaties [27] 552, 1238
- "Costa Rica Packet" [23] 199, 971; [24] 485, 777; [26] 222, 563, 949, 1476; [27] 548; [28] 244; [29] 21
- Danube, Mouth of the [22] 342
- Diplomatic Service and the Foreign Office [28] 555
- Disarmament Policy [22] 436; [23] 980
- Egypt
  - British Trade [26] 226
  - Corvée [26] 681, 1190, 1197
  - Education [26] 1296
  - Nile Reservoirs [25] 551, 1471; [28] 449
  - Sanitary Condition [27] 672
  - Tokar Tribesmen [28] 1242
  - Zobehr Pasha [22] 342

GREY, Sir E.—*cont.*
- False Trade Descriptions — International Conference [23] 1213
- Franco-Siamese Question, Papers Relating to, &c. [22] 868, 1063, 1064; [24] 794, 1319; [27] 166, 552; [28] 556, 569
- French Customs Tariff [25] 36
- Germany
  - Prison-Made Goods, Importation of into England [23] 1096; [27] 545
  - Seizure of the "Bluejacket" [24] 1172
  - Silver Commission [22] 155
- Greece—Piræus and Larissa Railway Company [23] 1431
- Guatemala—British Minister [23] 222
- Honduras and Nicaragua [25] 283
- Japan, New Treaty with [28] 1239
- Kerman—Trade Impositions [25] 421
- Madagascar
  - Alleged Outrage on British Indians [28] 447
  - United States Consul [22] 315
- Mala Real Portugueza Company [29] 346
- Mecca—Reported Cholera Outbreak [25] 286
- Morocco
  - Disturbances [25] 1230
  - Sir W. Ridgeway's Mission [25] 573
- Nicaragua Canal [27] 16
- Panama Canal [25] 789
- Peru
  - Affairs of [25] 291
  - External Debt [25] 305
  - Her Majesty's Minister at [23] 183
- Rabat, British Representative at [27] 1245
- Red Sea Slave Trade [24] 210
- Russia—British Herrings [22] 1576
- Russo-German Commercial Treaty [22] 1098, 1514
- Samoa
  - Administration of by New Zealand, &c. [23] 1221, 1661
  - Berlin Act [24] 1404
  - British Warships [22] 1097
  - Exiled Samoans [25] 420; [27] 1386
- Siam—Attack on British Subjects at Bangkok [24] 781
- Spanish Tariff [25] 1641
- Supply
  - Anglo-Belgian Agreement, &c. [27] 1314, 1320, 1321, 1322
  - Capitulations in Turkey [22] 1090, 1091
  - Diplomatic and Consular Buildings [22] 1083, 1090, 1091
  - East Africa [27] 1331, 1332, 1339
  - Foreign Affairs (Miscellaneous) [27] 1352, 1353, 1355; [28] 1470, 1471, 1480; [29] 339
  - Franco-Siamese Question [22] 835
  - Slavery in Zanzibar [29] 328, 330
  - Uganda [22] 401, 402, 403, 404; [25] 181, 182, 186, 196, 269; [29] 336
- Switzerland—Habitual Inebriates [22] 333
- Tunis-Tripoli Frontier [25] 1643
- Turkey—Mossoul Consular Appointment [23] 616
- Venezuela [22] 1429; [24] 1260

Grigsby, Dr. (see under CYPRUS)

Grimsby Fisher Lads
Qs. Mr. Nussey, Mr. A. O'Connor; As. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 9 [28] 465

Grocers' Certificates (Scotland) Abolition Bill
c. Intro., Sir J. Leng; Read 1° *Mar* 20 [22] 788 [Dropped]

Grocers' Licences Abolition Bill
c. Intro., Mr. D. Thomas; Read 1° *April* 5 [22] 1504 [Dropped]

Ground Game Act (1880) Amendment Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Billson; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 453 [Dropped]

Ground Game Act (1880) Amendment (No. 2) Bill
c. Intro., Sir D. Macfarlane; Read 1° *July* 13 [26] 1650 [Dropped]

Ground Game Act (1880) Extension Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Lambert; Read 1° *Mar* 23 [22] 786 [Dropped]

GROVE, Mr. T. N. A., *West Ham, N.*
- Customs—Statistical Department—Allowances, &c. [22] 1006
- East London Water Bill, 2R. [22] 1407; 3R. [26] 115
- Elementary School Teachers as Inspectors [22] 330
- Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, Instr. to Com. [28] 34, 35, 37
- Finance Bill, Com. [26] 496; Con. [27] 111
- Forest Gate School Poisoning Case [24] 24
- Hours of Labour, Great Eastern Railway [27] 170
- Naval Contracts and Fair Wages [26] 1564
- Temperance Canteens [22] 1591

Guardians of the Poor (Ireland) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Gilhooly; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 451 [Dropped]

GUATEMALA
British Minister, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 12 [23] 222

Guernsey—Primary Education
Q. Mr. C. Williams; A. Mr. Acland *June* 11 [25] 813

GULLY, Mr. W. C., *Carlisle*
Prisons, Committee on [24] 1411

Gun Licences
See under *Customs, Excise, and Inland Revenue*; Irish Questions (*see under title* IRELAND)

GUNTER, Colonel R., *York, W.R., Barkstone Ash*
- Army Estimates
  - Clothing [26] 987, 992
  - Militia [26] 867
- Canadian Cattle Importation [24] 1618
- Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, 2R. [24] 720

Habitual Inebriates
Q. Mr. Lees Knowles; A. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 15 [22] 332; Q. Mr. Pickersgill; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 16 [27] 26; Q. Mr. Wharton; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 17, 162
Retreat at Walsall, Q. Mr. Buchanan; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 30 [27] 1256

Hackney Carriage Licences in the Metropolis
Q. Mr. E. H. Bayley; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 2 [26] 687

HALDANE, Mr. R. B., *Haddington*
- Finance Bill, Com. [24] 1228, 1229, 1233, 1480, 1481; [25] 1240, 1243, 1541, 1542; [26] 199, 264, 265, 1431, 1434
- Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, Com. [28] 830
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [27] 482, 484, 564, 569, 574; Com., *cl.* 1, 1079, 1168, 1170

HALSBURY, Lord
- Aliens Bill, 2R. [27] 155, 156
- Arbitration (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [25] 392
- Betterment — Town Improvements, Select Com. Report [27] 336, 346, 348
- Cambridge Corporation Bill, 3R. [25] 1328
- Charitable Trusts Acts Amendment Bill, Pres. [22] 1565; 2R. [23] 1403
- Endowed Schools Act, 1869, and Amending Acts, &c.—Motion for Address [25] 1446
- Evidence in Criminal Cases Bill, 2R. [27] 646
- Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 993
- Larceny Act Amendment Bill, 2R. [26] 1061
- Law Library, Four Courts (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [23] 1211
- Law of Inheritance Amendment Bill, 2R. [23] 1399, 1401
- Limitation of Actions Bill, 2R. [23] 445; Com., 1206
- London County Council (Tower Bridge Southern Approach) Bill, 2R. [25] 1323
- Merchandise Marks Act (1887) Amendment Bill, 2R. [25] 777

[cont.

HALSBURY, Lord—*cont.*
- Parochial Electors (Registration Acceleration) Bill, 2R. [27] 335
- Pistols Bill, 3R. [26] 659
- Supreme Court of Judicature (Procedure) Bill, 2R. [22] 298; Com. [23] 817
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [28] 930, 936, 937, 938

HALSEY, Mr. T. F., ***Herts, Watford***
- Coldbath Fields Money Order Office [25] 408; [27] 1120

HAMILTON, Lord F., ***Tyrone, N.***
- Achill Extension Railway [26] 236
- Strabane Voting List [28] 1230
- Tyrone Register [29] 382

HAMILTON, Right Hon. Lord G., ***Middlesex, Ealing***
- Banstead Common [22] 1582
- Boilers for Torpedo-Boat Destroyers [25] 1078
- Budget and the Naval Defence Fund [23] 1096
- Business of the House [22] 270
- Dockyard Labour and Wages, Res. [22] 656
- Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, Instr. to Com. [28] 37; Com., 61, 108
- Finance Bill, Com., *cl.* 37 [26] 613, 620
- Naval Expenditure [22] 767; [26] 235
- Naval Reserve [22] 674
- Navy Estimates
  - Shipbuilding, Repairs, &c. [23] 67, 249, 254
  - Works, Buildings, and Repairs [23] 303
- Standing Committee (Scotland) Res. [22] 1497
- Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 1194, 1200

HAMMOND, Mr. J., ***Carlow***
- Carlow Labourers' Cottages [23] 1220
- Carlow Lunatic Asylum [27] 365
- Irish Asylum Boards—Chairmen's Casting Votes [24] 1532

Hampstead—House Construction
- Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 30 [27] 1254
- (See also under *Building Bye-Laws in the Metropolis*)

Hanbury Charity, Langton
- Q. Mr. Logan; A. Mr. Acland *May* 31 [25] 21

HANBURY, Mr. R. W., ***Preston***
- Army
  - Armour-Piercing Projectiles Contracts [22] 1510, 1577
  - Bedding and other Barrack Accommodation [24] 365
  - Canteen Sergeants' Pay [24] 364
  - Compassionate Allowances—Case of Persons Killed and Injured [25] 1636
  - Cordite for Musketry Practice [28] 559
  - Cordite Manufacture [24] 1007; [28] 125
  - Crimean Veterans, Destitute [25] 945
  - Eight Hours Day [22] 151
  - Employment for Discharged and Reserve Soldiers [23] 1098
  - Enlistment, Fraudulent [24] 474
  - Factories, Police at [25] 31
  - Frog's Marching [24] 804
  - Guards' Hospital at Westminster [24] 228
  - Hospital Meat Supplies [24] 365
  - Reserve Corps Transport [28] 30
  - Short Service System—Soldiers' Grievances [24] 1394; [25] 15
  - Volunteer Decoration [23] 216
  - Waltham Abbey Powder Factory [26] 19
  - Waltham Abbey Powder Factory Explosions [22] 154; [23] 338; [24] 605, 790, 1434, 1442; [25] 1348; [26] 454; [27] 1568
  - War Office Chemist [24] 788
- Army (Annual) Bill [22] 906, 1114; [23] 290, 292; Com., 554, 557, 561, 562, 564, 566, 567, 575, 578, 579, 581, 583, 585
- Army Estimates [26] 800
  - Barracks—Drainage [26] 1040, 1105
  - Clothing Establishment [26] 962, 964, 969, 976, 988, 992, 995
  - Colonel M'Clintock [27] 308, 311, 312, 314, 315
  - Conveyance of Troops, &c. [26] 912, 917, 918
  - Crimean and Indian Mutiny Veterans [27] 320, 324
  - Dublin Main Drainage Scheme [26] 1138, 1139
  - Duke of Cambridge [27] 307
  - Employment of Discharged and Reserve Soldiers [25] 1016
  - Engineer Works, &c. [25] 1051
  - Factory Labour, &c. [26] 1020
  - Fencing and Repairs [26] 1037
  - Forage and Supplies [25] 1040
  - General Discussions on Particular Votes [25] 993, 1036
  - Imperial Defence Loan [26] 1147, 1148
  - Medical Department [26] 803, 805, 810, 820, 822, 833
  - Military Education [26] 1127
  - Militia—Magazine Rifle, &c. [26] 854, 861, 863
  - Promotion from the Ranks [25] 1010, 1011
  - Straw Beds and other Barrack Accommodation [25] 1046, 1050
  - Volunteers [26] 909
  - Waltham Abbey Powder Factory [26] 1022, 1023, 1024, 1027
  - War Office Clerks, &c. [27] 298, 303
  - Warlike and other Stores—Contracts [26] 1002, 1003
- Balfour Companies [24] 1187
- Behring Sea Award Bill [23] 216, 217
- Brazilian Civil War [22] 332

[*cont.*

HANBURY, Mr. R. W.—*cont.*
- Business of the House [22] 269, 270, 1642; [26] 695
  - Motion for Select Com. [22] 1276
- Coldbath Fields Money Order Office [26] 688; [28] 20
- Convictions, Record of [22] 1001
- Customs Boatmen [25] 1340
- Finance Bill, Com., *cl.* 1 [24] 1229, 1236, 1237, 1452, 1454, 1458, 1465, 1469, 1470, 1471; *cl.* 2 [25] 447, 473, 478, 490, 626; *cl.* 3, 636, 647; *cl.* 4, 749; *cl.* 6, 1374, 1380; *cl.* 7, 1398, 1399, 1477, 1478, 1482, 1486, 1494, 1495, 1497, 1500, 1512; *cl.* 14 [26] 24; *cl.* 16, 100, 137, 139; *cl.* 17, 144, 153; *cl.* 20, 267; *New cls.*, 720, 743; Con., 1247, 1256, 1578, 1585, 1614
- Government Advertisements [26] 1471
- Government Property, Rating of [27] 1406
- House of Lords Officials [23] 461
- India
  - Mortality in Prisons [23] 617, 618; [24] 31
  - Station Hospitals Savings [27] 1569
- Judges at Race Meetings [24] 794; [25] 428, 691
- Law Officers of the Crown—Private Practice, &c. [22] 585, 941, 944, 945, 946, 947, 949, 950, 953; [23] 1682; [26] 7
- London Police Boots [25] 1641
- Lytham School Charity [28] 141
- National Telephone Company [27] 1136
- Navy
  - Brennan Torpedo—Reward for Invention [24] 232
  - Courts Martial [23] 1447
  - Dockyard Labour and Wages, Res. [22] 611, 649
  - Food Allowances [24] 228
  - Foreign Stations [24] 1162
  - H.M.S. "Crescent" [22] 442
  - Lee-Metford Rifle [22] 443
  - Seamen and Stokers [23] 1674
  - Stonehouse Marine Barracks — Alleged Assault by an Officer [22] 320
  - Stores, Inspection of [22] 314
  - Torpedo Boat "Havock"—Disclosure of Plans [22] 434
- Pistol and Revolver Accidents, Res. [22] 1039
- Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Con. [24] 1637
- Privilege — Lord Rosebery's Speech at Edinburgh, Res. [22] 593
- Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [22] 1503
- Steam Trawlers (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [24] 747
- Supply
  - Appropriations in Aid [22] 376
  - British Museum [22] 1065, 1069
  - Buckingham Palace [22] 965
  - Civil Servants and District and Parish Councils [27] 1298, 1300, 1303
  - Coldbath Fields Money Order Office [24] 949, 950, 951
  - Colonial Office—South African Telegrams [22] 363
  - Dangerous Trades [22] 361

HANBURY, Mr. R. W.—*cont.*
- Supply—*cont.*
  - Elementary Education—Requirements of the Education Department [22] 384, 385
  - Extension of Admiralty Buildings [22] 990
  - High Commissioner of the Cape Government [22] 405
  - House of Commons Offices [22] 351
  - House of Commons Offices, Commission on [22] 354, 356
  - House of Lords Officials [22] 799; [27] 1289
  - Houses of Parliament [22] 983
  - Kew Gardens [22] 973
  - Law Charges—Cordite Dispute [22] 366, 368
  - Legation and Consular Buildings in China, Indian Contribution to [22] 1081; Res., 1085, 1087
  - Metropolitan Police Courts [22] 998
  - Professor Rhys-Davids [27] 1297
  - Rating of Government Property [27] 1279, 1282, 1287
  - Revenue Department Buildings [24] 925, 926, 936, 975
  - Vote on Account [22] 804
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Com., *cl.* 1 [27] 1029, 1030, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1069, 1070, 1075, 1172, 1197, 1199, 1498; *cl.* 4, 1591

HANSON, Sir R., *London*
- Canadian Tea Duties [23] 455, 1094

Harbours of Refuge—East Coast of Yorkshire
- Q. Mr. Holden; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 5 [22] 1445

HARCOURT, RIGHT HON. SIR W. G. V. (Chancellor of the Exchequer), *Derby*
- Aged Poor Commission [26] 1310
- Agricultural Depression [23] 224; Res., 346, 354, 359, 367
- Agricultural Depression in Essex [24] 1186; Res. [25] 822, 828
- Anarchist Placards [27] 563
- Appropriations in Aid [22] 153
- Army (Annual) Bill [22] 855
- Balfour, Jabez, Extradition of [27] 179
- Bank of England and Silver Coin [25] 1099
- Behring Sea Award Bill [22] 1596, 1684
- Betting and Gambling Legislation [25] 694
- British Goods in South Africa [26] 18
- Budget [22] 1114, 1584; [23] 859
  - Death Duties, Qs. [23] 988, 1103, 1450, 1452, 1680; [24] 48, 49, 50, 51, 239, 378, 478, 608, 796, 797, 1003, 1189; [25] 35, 426, 589, 692, 810, 924, 927, 1097, 1353, 1645, 1646; [26] 18, 243, 575, 1195; [27] 31, 806

[cont.

[cont.

HARCOURT, Right Hon. Sir W. G. V.—*cont.*
- Budget—*cont.*
  - Income Tax [23] 219, 1229; [24] 482
  - Naval Defence Fund [23] 1097
  - Spirit Duty [23] 637, 987; [24] 241
  - Tithe Rent-Charge [23] 1451
- Cambridge Corporation Bill, Con. [24] 349, 360
- Cardiff Savings Bank [25] 1644
- Cess and Stent Taxes in Royal Burghs [25] 427
- Charity Commission (Parliamentary Control), Res. [22] 1023, 1025
- Charity Commissioner, Parliamentary [22] 869
- Cholera Precautions [22] 1584
- Church Patronage Bill, 2R. [24] 163
- Civil List Pension to Professor Rhys-Davids [26] 1487
- Civil Service, Res. [22] 927, 937
- Clubs and Excise Licences [22] 1008
- Coinage of Silver [24] 238
- Companies and The Stamp Act (1891) [28] 146
- Compounding for Stamp Duty [27] 383, 1143
- "Corkage" at Temperance Hotels [22] 1114
- County Magistrates [22] 703; [27] 178
- County of London and the Inland Revenue Department [25] 590
- Crofters' Acts Amendment Bill [24] 811; [28] 563, 772, 996
- Death Duties in Foreign Countries [23] 1687
- Disarmament Question [22] 1008
- Diseases of Animals Bill, Com. [28] 877; 3R., 1079
- Eastern Trade and the Silver Question [22] 347
- Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill [23] 634; [24] 609, 795; 2R. [27] 942
- Established Church (Wales) Bill [23] 219, 220, 988; Motion for Leave, 1764, 1768
- Finance Bill [23] 1683; 2R. [24] 512, 517, 519, 527, 529, 557, 611, 632, 827, 828, 884, 887, 888, 890, 892, 895, 897, 900; Order for Com., 1202, 1203; Instr. to Com., 1206, 1207, 1209, 1217, 1218; Con. in Com., *cl.* 1, 1221, 1225, 1231, 1234, 1236, 1239, 1241, 1251, 1454, 1458, 1464, 1465, 1466, 1470, 1471, 1473, 1474, 1477, 1489, 1490, 1549, 1558, 1559, 1563, 1604
  - [25] 87, 95, 96, 97, 98, 101, 102, 103, 108, 113, 118, 120, 123, 124, 125, 126, 129, 130, 315, 319, 320, 321, 322, 325, 329, 331, 332, 333, 334, 339, 341, 344, 345, 347, 355, 356, 363, 368, 372, 374, 379, 380; *cl.* 2, 435, 436, 438, 439, 440, 441, 460, 461, 462, 488, 498, 503, 509, 515, 518, 519, 520, 522, 523, 525, 530, 531, 532, 538, 540, 597, 599, 602, 606, 609, 613, 614, 615, 616, 620, 628, 629, 630, 633, 635; *cl.* 3, 642, 643, 666, 700, 711, 721, 726, 732; *cl.* 4, 747, 750, 751, 753, 854, 855, 857, 858, 872, 873, 874; *cl.* 5, 882, 884, 947, 948, 949, 952, 953, 1119, 1121, 1123, 1139, 1143, 1144, 1148; *cl.* 6, 1231, 1232, 1233, 1234, 1235, 1236, 1237, 1238, 1244, 1245, 1246, 1247, 1248, 1250, 1254, 1255, 1260, 1264, 1299, 1300, 1304, 1306, 1309, 1310, 1311, 1367,

[*cont.*

HARCOURT, Right Hon. Sir W. G. V.—*cont.*
- Finance Bill—*cont.*
  - 1368, 1370, 1371, 1394, 1395, 1396; *cl.* 7, 1414, 1415, 1417, 1418, 1420, 1429, 1477, 1478, 1479, 1480, 1495, 1496, 1497; *cl.* 8, 1514, 1516; *cl.* 9, 1536, 1542; *cl.* 10, 1654, 1656; *cl.* 12, 1686; *cl.* 13, 1688, 1690, 1692, 1694, 1696, 1698; *cl.* 14, 1705, 1707, 1711, 1714, 1715
  - [26] 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37, 42, 51, 54, 55; *cl.* 15, 62, 63, 64, 74, 80; *cl.* 16, 88, 89, 97, 100, 138; *cl.* 17, 140, 141, 142, 144, 145, 148, 149; *cl.* 18, 201, 202; *cl.* 19, 266; *cl.* 20, 269, 270; *cl.* 23, 276, 280, 281, 282, 299; *cl.* 24, 327, 332, 333, 334, 337; *cl.* 25, 348, 349, 350, 363, 369; *cl.* 27, 371, 372; *cl.* 28, 465, 466; *cl.* 29, 467, 469, 470, 474, 480, 484, 485, 487, 489, 491, 494, 495, 496, 498, 500; *cl.* 31, 501, 503, 505, 510, 511, 592, 597, 607, 610, 612; *cl.* 37, 615; *New cls.*, 638, 641, 649, 651, 655, 697, 700, 703, 705, 707, 710, 717, 718, 720, 725, 726, 729, 732, 743, 744, 745, 748, 749, 751; Re-com., *cl.* 27, 756, 757, 766; Con., 1204, 1205, 1216, 1221, 1228, 1229, 1230, 1242, 1244, 1245, 1257, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1265, 1271, 1274, 1276, 1277, 1317, 1332, 1333, 1335, 1344, 1348, 1349, 1353, 1369, 1373, 1382, 1384, 1387, 1396, 1400, 1401, 1402, 1408, 1412, 1527, 1528, 1546, 1575, 1576, 1577, 1580, 1582, 1586, 1598, 1599, 1600, 1602, 1603, 1606, 1610, 1614, 1615, 1617, 1619, 1620, 1621, 1638, 1641
  - [27] 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 44, 46, 48, 53, 61, 63, 76, 94, 100, 106, 108, 109; 3R., 187, 269
  - Budget Proposals (*see* under sub-heading Budget)
  - Closure of the Spirit Duty Clause [26] 458
  - Debate on [25] 1099
  - Industrial Assurance Companies [24] 608
- Financial Relations [22] 350; [23] 987, 1683
- France—Assassination of President Carnot [26] 457; Notice of Motion for Address, 136; Motion, 245
- Government Contracts—Board of Trade Publications [23] 977
- Gresham University Commission [22] 905; [24] 1003
- Honours, Bestowal of, Res. [24] 415
- House of Lords
  - Evicted Tenants Bill [28] 1391
  - Rejection of Bills [27] 562; [29] 22
- Incidence of Taxation [27] 806
- Income Tax [22] 1050, 1051
  - Assessment [27] 178
  - Budget Proposals [23] 219, 1229; [24] 482
  - Building Societies [25] 34
  - District Commissioners—Wigan, &c. [25] 1099, 1647
  - Imaginary Farming Profits [25] 810
  - Overpaid [26] 1311
  - Relief Certificates [25] 1646
  - Returns [22] 1009
- India
  - Debates [24] 1536; [25] 311; [27] 1020, 1586
  - Import Duty [22] 328

[*cont.*

HARCOURT, Right Hon. Sir W. G. V.—*cont.*
  Inhabited House Duty [26] 1195
  Inland Revenue Affidavit [26] 456
  Inland Revenue Officers [24] 481; [27] 31
  Ireland
    Administration [25] 1102, 1356
    Church Temporalities Fund [24] 796, 1188, 1425
    Clonakilty – Labourers' Cottages [23] 633
    Crimes Act, Repeal of [23] 1225
    Death Duties [25] 1645
    Falsification of Whisky Permits in Belfast [25] 1095, 1352; [26] 16
    German Spirits and Irish Whisky [24] 45, 798, 1535; [25] 36
    Income Tax and Labourers' Cottages [24] 46, 1189
    Occupying Tenants and the Death Duties [27] 31
    Probate Registrars [25] 1646; [26] 18; [27] 806
  Laches of Trustees [25] 1096
  Land Tax Commissioners in Wales [25] 811
  Land Values, Taxes on [23] 1103
  Law Faculty for London University [28] 562
  Law Officers of the Crown [22] 586, 944, 945, 946, 953; [24] 378; [26] 7, 575, 695
  Liquor Traffic (Local Veto) Bill [23] 1225; [24] 914; [25] 595; [27] 385
  Local Government (Scotland) Bill [27] 1144; 2R. [24] 1074
  Lordship of Appeal—Appointment [26] 1486
  Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister [23] 340, 341
  Mines (Eight Hours) Bill [23] 1685; [24] 238, 799, 800; [25] 1195; [27] 806; [28] 253, 801
  National Debt Annuitants and Nonconformist Ministers [24] 481
  Navy
    Expenditure [26] 456
    Reserve [22] 674
    "Victoria" Disaster [22] 737
  Navy Estimates [22] 784; Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, &c.—Personnel [23] 240, 244, 245, 246, 258, 259, 286, 288
  Newcastle and Gateshead Water Bill, 2R. [24] 1521
  New Forest—Destruction of Trees [25] 1096
  Old Age Provident Pensions Bill, 2R. [22] 1363, 1368, 1370
  Ottawa Conference [26] 1573
  Parliament
    Business of the House, Qs. [22] 156, 267, 268, 270, 271, 327, 449, 586, 587, 1595, 1675; Res., 1596, 1598, 1599, 1600, 1607, 1646, 1673, 1674, 1675; Qs. [23] 223, 289, 290, 857, 1454; [24] 242, 243, 1190, 1423, 1546; Res. [25] 43, 55, 57, 65, 68, 72; Qs. [26] 137, 577, 695, 1312; [27] 1145, 1271, 1565; [28] 32, 33, 146, 252, 269, 570; Res., 1151, 1258, 1263, 1267, 1268, 1269; Statement [27] 280, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289; [28] 777, 778, 779
    Cabinet Ministers' Salaries [24] 1189
    Committees (Ascension), Res. [24] 141

[*cont.*

HARCOURT, Right Hon. Sir W. G. V.—*cont.*
  Parliament—*cont.*
    Deputy Speaker [22] 1255
    Derby Day Adjournment [25] 311; Res., 433
    House of Commons Accommodation [24] 609
    Introduction of and Ballotting for Bills [22] 131, 135, 136, 156, 160, 161, 162
    Kitchen and Refreshment Rooms—Motion for Select Com. [22] 784
    Private Members' Days [22] 154
    Procedure on the Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Arbitration Bill, Res. [27] 1409, 1415, 1434, 1435
    Public Business (Ministerial Statement)—Motion for Adjournment of the House [27] 393, 394, 395, 398, 400, 402, 410, 418
    Privilege—Lord Rosebery's Speech at Edinburgh [22] 348; Res., 593
    Privilege—Voluntary Conveyances Bill, Blocking of, by Mr. Perks [23] 643
    Sittings and Adjournments of the House—Alteration of Date of Meeting, Obs. [22] 785
    Twelve o'Clock Rule, Suspension of [22] 1380; [23] 637, 638; [27] 563
    Vacation of Seat on Succession to Peerage, Motion for Select Com. [26] 406, 410, 417, 421, 422, 423
  Parliamentary Elections
    Attercliffe Vacancy [26] 568
    Expenses, Payment of [25] 34; [26] 1195; [27] 277
    Re-Election on Appointment to Office [23] 632
  Parochial Election (Registration Acceleration) Bill [26] 455; 2R. [23] 1780; [24] 915, 922, 923
  Payment of Members [28] 253
  Period of Qualification and Elections Bill, Intro. [23] 395
  Plate Duties [24] 608
  Pluralists in the Public Service [24] 799
  Poet Laureateship [27] 179
  Political Pensions [24] 1536
  Poor Law Boundaries in Kent and the Land Tax Commissioners [25] 588
  Public Trustees and the Finance Bill [24] 1190
  Queen's Birthday [24] 48
  Queen's Speech, Reply to [22] 61, 71, 73, 206, 207, 253, 295
    Administration of the Law in Ireland [22] 246
    Gladstone, Right Hon. W. E.—Retirement from Office [22] 61
    House of Lords [22] 257
  Railway and Canal Traffic Bill [24] 241, 1536; [27] 1585; [28] 1076
  Sale of Goods Act (1893) [22] 983
  Saxe-Coburg, Duke of (Annuity), Res. [22] 1055
  Scotland
    Cess and Stent Taxes [24] 480
    Crofters and Dog Licences [28] 562
    Deer Forest Commission [25] 1476

[*cont.*

HARCOURT, Right Hon. Sir W. G. V.—*cont.*
- Scotland—*cont.*
  - Garve and Ullapool Railway [28] 24
  - Home Rule [23] 221
  - Law Officers [27] 383
  - Loch Broom Navigation [23] 632
  - Ross-shire Railway Communication [22] 1255
  - West Highland Railway—Mallaig Railway [28] 146, 147
- Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [23] 740, 998, 1004, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1017, 1021, 1023, 1027, 1029, 1031
- Supply
  - Agricultural Education [28] 1551
  - Annual Votes—Unexpended Balances [25] 1353
  - Financial Relations [28] 1557
  - House of Commons Kitchen Committee, [22] 882; [28] 1432
  - House of Commons Offices Committee [22] 883, 884
  - House of Lords Officers [28] 1426
  - Houses of Parliament [22] 978
  - Indian Opium Commission [29] 109, 111
  - Nottingham Execution [28] 1454
  - Report [29] 123, 178, 179
  - Science and Art Department [29] 95
  - Scotch Votes [28] 1555. 1556; [29] 172
  - Voluntary Schools, &c. [22] 813, 814
  - Vote on Account [22] 349, 805; [24] 814, 1322
- Telephone Companies and the Government [28] 1251
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill [27] 1145; Com., 1093
- Thames Conservancy Bill, Instr. to Com. [24] 1387
- Trade and Agriculture, Depression of—Amendt. to Address in Answer to Queen's Speech [22] 110
- Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill, Con. [27] 1380
- Transvaal Affairs [26] 128
- Treasury Grants in Lieu of Local Rates [24] 798, 799
- Treasury, Surrenders to [23] 634
- Uganda [23] 223, 982, 983, 1095, 1140; [24] 48, 488, 489, 913; [25] 313
- Wales
  - Colliery Explosion [26] 136, 567
  - Mineral Rights—Grants to Sir W. Herbert [26] 696
- Ways and Means
  - Budget Proposals (*see* under sub-heading Budget)
  - Com. [29] 125, 128, 130, 132, 135, 145, 147, 148
  - Financial Statement, Com. [23] 469, 511, 512, 514, 523, 524, 525, 531, 534, 539, 540, 541, 545, 550, 551, 552, 1107, 1109, 1111, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1118, 1121, 1137, 1141, 1142, 1143, 1144, 1145, 1146, 1148, 1155, 1170, 1171, 1172, 1173, 1174, 1178, 1181, 1183, 1187, 1188, 1189, 1191, 1193, 1196, 1198, 1232, 1271, 1272, 1274, 1275, 1277, 1278, 1279, 1280, 1282, 1299, 1312, 1314, 1323
  - Res. to authorise Clause 15 of the Finance Bill, Com. [25] 1649

[*cont.*

HARCOURT, Right Hon. Sir W. G. V.—*cont.*
- York, Duke and Duchess of—Birth of a Son, Motion for Address, Notice of [26] 136; Motion, 460, 463

HARDIE, Mr. J. KEIR-, *West Ham, S.*
- Army Reserve, Transfers to [26] 224
- Book Post [23] 626
- Business of the House, Res. [25] 70
- Colliery Explosion in Wales [26] 136, 567
- Customs Boatmen [26] 225
- Dock Labourers, Unemployed [23] 1407
- Enfield Small Arms Factory Workmen [23] 1444; [24] 235; [25] 912
- Free School Books [25] 290
- Great Western Railway Hours of Labour [26] 427
- House of Commons Waiters' Wages [24] 233
- Irish Prison Warders [29] 175
- Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, 2R. [23] 1375
- Naval Contracts [22] 440; [24] 587; [26] 221, 565, 671
- Ordnance Store Department, Woolwich—Wages, &c. [28] 1383
- Peterhead Prison [26] 133
- Police
  - Clerkenwell—Obstructing the Police [29] 358
  - Labour Meetings in Scotland [26] 457
  - Social Democrats [27] 374
  - Whitechapel Procession [24] 234
- Rhyl Poor Relief Administration [23] 1407
- Ships' Provisions [29] 348
- State Carriage Licences in London [24] 777
- Supply—Female Factory Inspectors [28] 1436
- Telegraphs—Central Office [23] 625
- Tracers [23] 1445; [26] 132
- Vaccination, Compulsory [25] 913
- Woolwich Arsenal Labourers' Wages [27] 375
- Workshops in London, Inspection of [29] 18
- York, Duke and Duchess of—Birth of a Son, Motion for Address [26] 462, 463

HARDY, Mr. L., *Kent, Ashford*
- Royal Artillery at Tenterden—Damage Committed by Soldiers [24] 1161

HARE, Mr. T. L., *Norfolk, S.W.*
- Duchy of Lancaster Land [25] 1622

HARLAND, Sir E. J., *Belfast, N.*
- Ireland—Land Acts, Select Com. [23] 305, 312
- Navy Estimates
  - Dockyards, Eight Hours Day in [23] 98
  - Manning, 98
  - Men and Boys [22] 764
- Nicaragua Canal [27] 15
- "Victoria" Disaster [22] 703, 716, 718, 719, 721

HARRINGTON, Mr. T., *Dublin, Harbour*
- Customs Outdoor Officers [28] 246
- Ireland
  - Ballinasloe Guardians' Election [25] 302
  - County Court Judges [28] 246
  - De Freyne Estate [27] 560
  - Dublin Postmen [25] 177
  - Ex-Prison Warder Barrett [28] 260
  - Licensed Restaurant Facilities in Dublin [28] 140
  - Lights Board [27] 370
  - Lunacy Inspectors' Report [27] 378
  - Prisons Administration Inquiry [28] 260
  - Registry of Deeds Clerks [25] 19
- Lunacy Commissioners' Report [27] 377
- Queen's Speech, Reply to [22] 179
  - Administration of the Law in Ireland [22] 244, 280, 284, 290
  - Dynamite Prisoners [22] 234
  - Gladstone, Right Hon. W. E.—Retirement from Office [22] 72
  - Home Rule [22] 71, 73
- Scotch Lunacy Board Report [27] 377
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [23] 889, 903, 940; Con. [28] 150, 155, 156, 160, 164, 166, 173, 175, 176, 306, 354

HAWKESBURY, Lord
- Housing of the Working Classes (Borrowing Powers) Bill, 2R. [28] 1164
- Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12) Bill, Com. [26] 1045
- Medical Inspectors and Cholera Survey [26] 106
- Newton Abbot Workhouse Inquiry [26] 389
- Queen's Speech, Reply to [22] 13

Hawkins, Mr. Justice (see under *Law, &c.—Judges at Race Meetings*)

HAYDEN, Mr. L. P., *Roscommon, S.*
- Ireland
  - Annaly's, Lord, Estate Disputes [23] 1226, 1583
  - Civil Service Retirement [22] 874
  - Clonakilty Rate Book—Case of Cornelius Driscoll [23] 1226
  - De Freyne Evictions [22] 873; [24] 782, 1330; [27] 561, 1566
  - Dillon's, Lord, Tenants [22] 879; [23] 461
  - Dispensary Committees [24] 373
  - Drumharriff Bridge [26] 1067
  - Dublin Post Office [23] 974; [26] 1064
  - Education Act [23] 461
  - Financial Relations [23] 1659; [24] 362
  - Finnor Postal Facilities [22] 863
  - Labourers' Cottages [27] 1024
  - Portrane Lunatic Asylum [23] 973
  - Rathcline, County Longford, Evictions [23] 828
  - Teachers' Pensions [27] 1024
  - Walsh, Michael [22] 875
- Inland Revenue Officers' Salaries [24] 481
- Inland Revenue Officials, Charges against [24] 241

HAYDEN, Mr. L. P.—*cont.*
- Lunacy, Increase of, in England and Wales [24] 467
- Poor Relief (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [22] 455
- Siam—Attack on British Subjects at Bangkok [24] 781
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill [23] 1228; Com. [27] 1545, 1547; Con. [28] 174, 177

Haymakers, Attack on, at Barnet (see *Irish Haymakers*)

HAYTER, Sir A. D., *Walsall*
- Army (Annual) Bill, Com. [23] 579
- Army Estimates
  - Fencing and Repairs [26] 1037
  - Land Forces [22] 541
  - Military Education [26] 1118
- Diplomatic Service [28] 555
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Com. [27] 1600

HEALY, Mr. M., *Cork*
- American Mail Service [24] 605, 773
- Death Duties—Insolvent Estates, &c. [25] 426, 588, 692
- Ireland
  - Agricultural Statistics Enumerators [25] 425
  - Cork Street Preacher—Mr. Williams [24] 211, 769
  - Cork Street Sunday Disturbances [22] 1588
  - Flesk Mills Fisheries [26] 1070
  - Mail Contract [24] 604
  - Phœnix Park [25] 422, 424
  - Police Clothing Contracts [22] 340
  - Post Office Clothing Contracts [22] 339, 1441
  - Registration of Land Titles [24] 593, 772
  - Royal Hospital for Incurables, Dublin [26] 1072
- Land Tenure (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [23] 142
- Public Works Loans Bill, Con. [25] 388
- Religion of Pauper Children in Scotland [26] 679
- Supreme Court of Judicature (Procedure) Bill, 2R. [25] 492

HEALY, Mr. Thomas J., *Wexford, N.*
- Ireland
  - Cork Street Preaching—Case of Mr. Williams [23] 1414
  - Death Duties and Probate Registry Officials [25] 1646; [27] 806
  - Land-Grabbing Denunciations—Case of Mr. Thomas [25] 794
  - Wexford County—Extra Police [23] 207
  - Wexford County, State of [23] 458; [27] 1013
  - Wexford Grand Jury [28] 133

HEALY, Mr. T. M., *Louth, N.*
- Army Estimates—Text Books [27] 298
- British Museum (Purchase of Land) Bill, Com. [27] 486, 487

[cont.

HEALY, Mr. T. M.—*cont.*
- Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, Con. [27] 1655
- Chili, British Claims against [22] 447; [24] 39
- Compounding for Stamp Duty [27] 383, 1143
- Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [28] 647; Com., 878
- Crown Lands Bill, Re-com. [28] 114
- Customs Outdoor Officers [28] 1234
- Diseases of Animals Bill, Com. [28] 877; 3R., 1079
- Enfield and Sparkbrook Factories [23] 209
- Industrial Schools Bill, Com. [27] 1492
- Ireland
  - Arran Islands [22] 1511
  - Birr Barrack Scandal [28] 128
  - Carlow Lunatic Asylum [27] 365
  - Charitable Bequests Commission [28] 144
  - Clare County, Crime in [22] 324
  - Cork Murder [24] 208
  - Cork Street Preacher—Mr. Williams [24] 212
  - Crime in Galway—Police Protection [28] 457
  - Cycling Races, Bookmakers at [28] 453
  - Denunciations, Illegal [24] 23
  - Dillon's, Mr. J., Speech at Ballybrood [24] 1168
  - Donegal Sessional Crown Solicitor [22] 678
  - Downpatrick Water Supply [27] 558
  - Dublin and Cork Travelling Post Office Sorting Clerks [27] 554
  - Dublin Botanic Gardens [27] 658
  - Dundalk Labourers' Cottages [23] 5
  - Dundalk Prison—Sanitary Inspector of Nuisances [23] 4
  - Educational Endowments — Erasmus Smith's, &c. [27] 1247; [28] 147; [29] 15
  - Evicted Farms on the Massereene Estate [27] 1581
  - Evictions, Number of [28] 443
  - Fisheries Report [25] 168
  - Flesk Mills, Killarney [24] 369
  - German Spirits, Importation of, into Ireland [24] 46
  - Gun Licences and the Police [28] 25
  - Joint-Rated Occupiers [28] 24
  - Kilbride Rifle Range [28] 445
  - Kingstown Pier — Discharged Labourers [24] 370
  - Land Acts, Select Com. [23] 305, 306, 307, 312, 397; [24] 1131
  - Landed Estates, Sale of [28] 445
  - Leighlinbridge Female National School [27] 1266; Res., 1272
  - Lights Board and the Briggs Reef Buoy [23] 324, 325
  - Limerick Water Bailiff [27] 657
  - Local Government Board Officials, Religion of [28] 443
  - Lunacy Among the Police [27] 557
  - Lunatics in Belfast Workhouse [24] 803
  - Meath (South) Polling Lists [27] 1244; [28] 25, 241, 775, 1234, 1391
  - Military Bands at Political Meetings [28] 553, 1243
  - Model Farms [27] 1249

[*cont.*

HEALY, Mr. T. M.—*cont.*
- Ireland—*cont.*
  - Phœnix Park [22] 575; [23] 6; [24] 476, 1395; [27] 809
  - Phœnix Park Constabulary Depôt—Catholics and Protestants [28] 447
  - Poachers Shot by Gamekeepers at Derry [28] 1230
  - Police Barrack Regulations—Peaceable Districts [28] 1382
  - Police Duty in Wexford [28] 1382
  - Protestants in Dublin Castle Constabulary Office [28] 26
  - Quit-Rents [27] 659
  - Registry of Deeds, Dublin [26] 1313
  - Richmond Asylum [23] 196, 197, 342; [24] 779
  - Richmond Prison [27] 810, 1008
  - Royal Irish Constabulary Force Fund [28] 1382
  - Sankey, Sir R. [24] 1406
  - Strabane Rate Collection and Voting Lists [28] 773, 1228, 1238, 1388
  - Tithe Rent-Charge Arrears [23] 1671
  - Warrants and Summonses, Issue of [27] 1241
  - Wexford Grand Jury [28] 132
  - Wexford, State of [27] 1012
- Irish Education Bill, Intro. [24] 1199
- Irish Haymakers, Attack on, at Barnet [28] 263, 987
- Irish Land and Migration Company [28] 775, 1243
- Land Tenure (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [23] 142
- Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Con. [28] 417, 419, 420
- Merchandise Marks (Files) Bill, 2R. [24] 198
- Merchant Shipping Bill, Re-com. [27] 1363; [28] 365
- Newcastle and Gateshead Water Bill, 2R. [24] 1519
- Newspaper Publications—Privileges of the House [28] 1258
- Parliament
  - Business of the House [27] 1426; [28] 1152, 1266
  - Introduction of and Balloting for Bills [22] 130, 133
  - Questions in the House—Fermoy Union Accounts [22] 322
- Period of Qualification and Elections Bill, 2R. [24] 321, 328
- Plumbers' Registration Bill, 2R. [23] 305
- Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Con. [24] 1642, 1643, 1665, 1666, 1670, 1672, 1673, 1676, 1677, 1678
- Prevention of Cruelty to Children (No. 2) Bill, Com. [28] 881
- Prisons Committee [24] 1412
- Private Bills, Cost of [23] 23
- Public Works Loans Bill, Com. [25] 131
- Queen's Speech, Reply to
  - Administration of the Law in Ireland [22] 245
  - Dynamite Prisoners [22] 238
  - House of Lords [22] 265
- Sea Fisheries (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [24] 1083

[*cont.*

HEALY, Mr. T. M.—*cont.*

- Smaller Dwellings (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [24] 746
- Statute Law Revision Bill, Com. [28] 1350; Con., 1487
- Steam Trawlers (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [24] 1679
- Supply
  - Holyhead Harbour [28] 1393
  - House of Lords Officers [28] 1424, 1426
  - Phœnix Park, &c. [28] 1409, 1415
  - Rating of Government Property [28] 1403, 1404
- Surveyors (Ireland) Bill, Motion for Leave [24] 249
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [27] 691, 695, 698, 699, 722, 723, 765, 766, 767, 774; Com., *cl.* 1, 1030, 1031, 1034, 1036, 1044, 1061, 1083, 1085, 1089, 1091, 1093, 1102, 1103, 1150, 1171, 1177, 1179, 1212, 1534; *cl.* 2, 1541; *cl.* 3, 1542, 1543, 1544; *cl.* 4, 1552, 1586, 1587, 1588, 1591; *cl.* 6, 1595, 1596; *cl.* 8, 1600; *New cls.*, 1601, 1602, 1604; Con. [28] 150, 152, 157, 158, 160, 161, 163, 165, 170, 171, 172, 178, 179; 3R., 274
  - Procedure Res. [27] 1426
- Uganda [23] 212, 336, 340
- Wild Birds' Protection Act (1880) Amendment Bill, 2R. [23] 169

HEATON, Mr. J. H., *Canterbury*

- Annual Report of the Post Office [28] 16
- Australian Mail Contract [24] 1177
- Behar Cadastral Survey [25] 296, 569; [27] 812; [29] 159
- "Board of Trade Journal" [28] 123
- Canadian Pacific Railway [25] 287
- China
  - British Postal Agencies [25] 288
  - Tien-Tsin Postal Arrangements [25] 8, 291
- "Costa Rica Packet" [29] 21
- Delagoa Bay Railway [22] 1451
- Division List Correction [23] 824
- Express Letters [29] 373
- Express Messenger Service [22] 138
- Extra Postage Charges in London [24] 1533
- Insurance Department of the Post Office, &c. [28] 16
- International Telegraphic Code [22] 303
- Japan Parcel Post [25] 556
- Letter Boxes on Trains [27] 1127
- Licence Fees [24] 810
- New South Wales, Dibb's Ministry [27] 1406
- Penny Postage [26] 222; [27] 1398
- Post Cards [25] 6; [26] 799; [29] 417
- Re-Directing Postal Matter [25] 555
- Straits Settlements—Military Contribution [27] 1015, 1117; [28] 6, 556, 765, 1388; [29] 171
- Supply
  - "Board of Trade Journal" [28] 1541, 1543
  - Commercial and Labour Statistics Department [28] 1537

HEATON, Mr. J. H.—*cont.*

- Supply—*cont.*
  - Post Office [29] 254
  - Telegraphs [29] 263, 264
- Telephone Companies [25] 1632; [27] 1135; [28] 1249

HENEAGE, Right Hon. E., *Great Grimsby*

- Army Estimates [25] 1102
- Business of the House, Res. [22] 1639, 1673; [25] 75
- Cabinet Ministers' Salaries [24] 1189
- Cholera Precautions [22] 1584; [27] 175
- Committee (Ascension Day), Res. [24] 142
- District and Parish Councils [22] 1577; [27] 172
- Finance Bill, Com., *cl.* 1 [24] 1230, 1231, 1469, 1472, 1473; *cl.* 2 [25] 518; *cl.* 3, 714, 737, 739; *cl.* 5, 931, 958, 974, 1107, 1109, 1114, 1115, 1127, 1159; *cl.* 6, 1232, 1233, 1265, 1306; *cl.* 25 [26] 357, 360; *cl.* 29, 485, 490; *cl.* 31, 585, 586, 589; Con., 1241, 1249, 1322, 1333, 1376, 1606; [27] 64, 72
- Loss of Life and Property at Sea—Official Inquiries [25] 37
- Missing Vessels [23] 860
- New Forest—Destruction of Trees [25] 1096
- North Sea Fisheries Convention [24] 374
- Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, 2R. [24] 730
- Parliamentary Election Expenses, Res. [24] 1359
- Period of Qualification and Elections Bill, 2R. [24] 330
- Public Trustees and the Finance Bill [24] 1189
- Scotland—New Cruisers [24] 474
- Sheerness Gunnery Establishment, Money Voted for [24] 1152
- "Sobriety" Fatality [24] 1159; [25] 37
- Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 1282, 1283

Her Majesty's Theatre, Pall Mall

- Q. Mr. Knox; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 2 [27] 1579

HERBERT, Hon. S., *Croydon*

- House of Commons Kitchen and Refreshment Rooms Expenses, Res. [24] 691
- House of Commons Waiters' Wages [24] 233
- Supply
  - Admiralty Buildings [22] 985
  - House of Commons Kitchen Committee [22] 984; [24] 1290, 1291, 1293, 1294, 1296
- Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill, Con. [27] 1380, 1381
- Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill, Con. [27] 1383; [28] 121

Herefordshire Charities

- Q. Mr. Dodd; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 20 [29] 10

[*cont.*

Heritable Securities (Scotland) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. A. Cross; Read 1° *May* 4 [24] 140
Read 2° *May* 9, 748
Con. in Com., R.P. *May* 21, 994; *June* 11 [25] 891
Con. in Com.; Reported and Re-com. *June* 13, 1052
Con. in Com. (Re-com.); R.P. *June* 28 [26] 512; *July* 16 [27] 116; *July* 23, 788; *July* 26, 1106
Con. in Com. (Re-com.) and Reported *Aug* 3 [28] 116
Read 3°, and passed *Aug* 6, 228
l. Read 1ª *Aug* 7, 237
Read 2ª *Aug* 14, 979
Com.; Reported, &c., *Aug* 16, 1215
Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 17, 1377
Royal Assent *Aug* 25
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 44]

HERRIES, Lord
Uganda—Motion for Papers [25] 137

HERSCHELL, LORD (Lord Chancellor)
Aliens Bill [28] 890; 2R. [27] 147
Arbitration (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [25] 392
Behring Sea Award Bill, 2R. [23] 179
Betterment — Town Improvements, Select Com. Report [27] 339
Bishopric of Bristol Act (1884) Amendment Bill, Report of Amendts. [26] 940
Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, 2R. [28] 1153; Com., 1370, 1371, 1372; Amendts. Reported [29] 7
Cambridge Corporation Bill, 3R. [25] 1326, 1329
Charitable Trusts Acts Amendment Bill, Com. [23] 1658
Chimney Sweepers Bill, 3R. [28] 4
Colonial Officers (Leave of Absence) Bill, 3R. [24] 333
Copyhold Consolidation Bill, Pres. [22] 137
Crown Lands Bill, 3R. [28] 1166
Endowed Schools Act, 1869, and Amending Acts, &c., Res. [23] 606; [25] 1441, 1444
Evidence in Criminal Cases Bill, 2R. [27] 645, 646
Finance Bill, 2R. [27] 984; Com., 1109; 3R., 1229, 1232
Indian Cotton Duties [27] 532
Indian Mints, Closing of [26] 551
Industrial Schools Bill, 3R. [27] 790
Land Transfer Bill [27] 156; Pres. [23] 182; 2R., 1027; Com. [24] 1
Larceny Act Amendment Bill, Pres. [26] 216; 2R., 1060, 1061
Law Library, Four Courts (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [23] 1211
Law of Inheritance Amendment Bill, Pres. [22] 1566; 2R. [23] 1385, 1394, 1401
Licensing Bill, Pres. [27] 112
Licensing in Lewis [26] 1171
[cont.

HERSCHELL, Lord—*cont.*
Licensing Law Amendment Bill, 2R. [26] 936
Limitation of Actions Bill, Pres. [22] 1565; 2R. [23] 444, 446; Com., 1205, 1206, 1207; 3R. [25] 394
Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Com. [28] 1183, 1188, 1206, 1207
London County Council (Tower Bridge Southern Approach) Bill, 2R. [25] 1322, 1323
Marine Insurance Bill, Pres. [28] 1367
Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, 2R. [25] 1188
Merchandise Marks Act (1887) Amendment Bill, 2R. [25] 775
Merchant Shipping Bill, 2R. [28] 1165
Perjury Bill, Pres. [24] 1367; 2R. [25] 545
Pistols Bill, Com. [24] 13; 3R. [26] 659, 660
Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, 2R. [25] 1609; Com. [26] 111, 112; Report of Amendts., 1281
Prevention of Cruelty to Children (No. 2) Bill, 2R. [27] 646
Prize Courts Bill, 2R. [25] 893; Com., 1333
Quarter Sessions (Midsummer) Bill, Pres. [22] 137; 2R., 299; Com. [23] 173, 174
Queen's Speech [22] 2
Solicitors' Examination Bill, 2R. [24] 17
Statute Law Revision Bill, Com. [28] 117
Supreme Court of Judicature (Procedure) Bill, Pres. [22] 137; 2R., 297, 299
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [28] 920, 928, 930, 931, 937, 938
Trustee Act (1893) Amendment Bill, Com. [23] 1069
Welsh Benefices, Sale of [25] 1, 2, 3

Herz, Dr. Cornelius
Q. Mr. Scott-Montagu; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 14 [28] 998

HIBBERT, RIGHT HON. SIR J. T. (Secretary to the Treasury), *Oldham*
Acts of Parliament, Dilatory Publication of [27] 360
Ancient Manuscripts in Welsh Libraries [25] 911
Anglo-Belgian Agreement—Correspondence [27] 171
Army (Annual) Bill, 1R. [22] 851
Auctioneers' Licences [25] 1350
Bechuanaland Railway Contract [28] 450
Behring Sea Arbitration—Attorney General's Fees [25] 408
Berwickshire Inland Revenue Business [27] 1396
Board of Trade Publications [23] 976
British Museum (Purchase of Land) Bill, 2R [27] 273; Com., 486, 487
Cattle, Unloading—Cruelties, 167
[cont.

HIBBERT, Right Hon. Sir J. T.—*cont.*
- Civil Service
  - Colonial and India Offices—Assistant Clerks [22] 193
  - Colonial Office Copyists [22] 1226
  - Compulsory Retirement [22] 1106
  - District and Parish Councils [28] 1237
  - Messengers' Holiday [29] 372
  - New Treasury Rules [22] 1112
  - Second Division Clerks [22] 684, 928, 930, 936; [23] 192, 847; [24] 34
  - Sick Leave [23] 193, 979
  - Sir C. Freemantle's Committee [22] 1448
  - Volunteers [25] 33
  - Working Hours [23] 466
  - Writers and Abstractors [23] 332, 1428; [25] 905; [28] 140
- Coastguard Stations—Life-Saving Apparatus [22] 308
- Colonel Rich's Pension [22] 685; [25] 1088
- Compassionate Allowances in the Government Service [25] 1636
- Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, Com. [22] 852
- Crown and Unwilled Property [25] 798
- Crown Estates [22] 1254
- Crown Lands and Cottages [23] 609
- Crown Lands Bill, Intro. [22] 255; Re-com. [28] 113
- Customs
  - Boatmen's Pay, &c. [25] 1340; [26] 225, 232, 784
  - Messengers [24] 765
  - Outdoor Officers [28] 9, 246, 1234
  - Outport Clerks [27] 20
  - Promotion [28] 994
  - Sick Pay—Case of A. D. Murray [24] 776
  - Statistical Department—Allowances, &c. [22] 1006; [29] 387
  - Warehousing Code [25] 688
- Deeds, Stamping [23] 1091
- Duchy of Lancaster Land [25] 1622
- Estate Duty—Affidavit for Inland Revenue [29] 374
- Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Bill [28] 136
- Excise Appointments—Age of Qualification [28] 10
- Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, Com. [28] 1081
- Farnham Tithe Dispute [28] 992
- Finance Bill, Com. [26] 506, 507, 509
- Foreign Goods for the Public Service [25] 1214, 1342
- Foreign-Made Paper in Government Offices [26] 243, 787
- Friendly Societies Returns [28] 473
- General Register Office [27] 1012
- Gold and Silver Commission Report [23] 1089
- Government Advertisements [26] 1471
- Government Contracts
  - Duration of [24] 1641
  - Fair Wages [26] 1068
  - Printing—Fair Wages, &c. [28] 771, 1564, 1579, 1581
  - Stationery [25] 791; [29] 354

[*cont.*

HIBBERT, Right Hon. Sir J. T.—*cont.*
- Government Farms, Wages on [28] 984; [29] 419
- Government Newspaper Publications [27] 795
- Government Printing Contracts—Fair Wages Resolution [28] 771, 1564, 1579, 1581
- Government Property, Rating of [27] 1406
- Government Stock Holders [25] 585
- Grants to University Colleges [26] 957
- Gresham University Commission [23] 1575
- Gun Licences and Volunteers [23] 1588
- Her Majesty's Theatre, Pall Mall [27] 1579
- House of Commons Committee Rooms, Water Closets off—Water Supply [28] 766, 993
- House of Commons Ventilation [28] 768
- House of Lords Officials [23] 461, 1223
- Income Tax
  - Commissioners [22] 1100; [28] 1236
  - Overpaid [26] 797
  - Valuation [26] 133
- Ireland
  - Achill Railway [23] 635; [26] 236
  - Armagh District Lunatic Asylum Loan [24] 1401
  - Ballina and Killala Light Railway [22] 877
  - Bangor Pier and Harbour Works [22] 1509
  - Beer Barrels [29] 380
  - Beleek Floods [27] 1578
  - Board of Works Contracts—Cement [27] 1140
  - Board of Works Inspectors [25] 790
  - Board of Works Land in Leitrim [24] 784; [26] 1306
  - Board of Works Loans [22] 577, 874; [23] 1577; [25] 303, 1346; [28] 455
  - Church Surplus Funds, Return [23] 1095
  - Church Temporalities Fund [24] 485
  - Clare and Banagher Railway [24] 367
  - Clogher Valley Tramway [22] 568
  - Cork Street Preacher—Mr. Williams [23] 1414; [24] 769
  - Cycling Races, Bookmakers at [28] 454
  - Deeds, Stamping [23] 463, 831, 1215
  - Down County Sea Fisheries [23] 1075
  - Drainage Loans [27] 1564
  - Dublin Castle Officials, Age of [23] 29
  - Dublin Customs House [22] 1573
  - Dublin Registry of Deeds Office [22] 1515; [23] 456; [24] 1269; [25] 20; [26] 1313; [27] 369
  - Dublin Registry of Titles [23] 457
  - Galway and Clifden Railway [22] 148; [25] 1212; [26] 789
  - German Spirit and Irish Whisky [26] 797
  - Government Contracts and Trade Union Wages [28] 245
  - Inland Revenue Examinations [23] 457
  - Killucan Medical Officer [28] 451
  - Killybegs Pier [23] 614; [24] 1401; [28] 240
  - Kingstown Pier—Discharged Labourers [24] 370
  - Kinsale Harbour Revenue [27] 164
  - Labourers Act Loan to Listowel [28] 137
  - Lecture Theatre of the Royal Dublin Society [24] 377
  - Light Railways [29] 174

[*cont.*

Hibbert, Right Hon. Sir J. T.—*cont.*
- Ireland—*cont.*
  - Linn and Black River Drainage [27] 364
  - Lough Erne Drainage [28] 475
  - Lough Key Floods [27] 1005; [28] 441
  - Manuscripts, Grants for the Publication of [22] 582
  - Meelick Lock [25] 1211
  - National Gallery [27] 1577
  - Nenagh Waterworks Loan [23] 1679
  - Newcastle Harbour [26] 123
  - Phœnix Park [22] 576; [23] 6, 1102; [24] 476, 1395; [25] 423, 424; [27] 809
  - Piers, Grants for [23] 1585
  - Queen's College [22] 1248; [23] 987
  - Quit-Rents [26] 785; [27] 659
  - Reproductive Loans [24] 1535
  - Sankey, Sir R. [24] 1405
  - Skibbereen Customs House [22] 1573
  - Sligo and Leitrim Railway [23] 1430; [25] 170
  - Southern Railway Bill [23] 827
  - Stranorlar and Glenties Railway [22] 1102
  - Suck Drainage [25] 1212
  - Teachers' Pension Scheme [25] 171
  - Tralee and Dingle Railway [23] 184
  - Whisky Permits [29] 379
- Labour Commission, Cost of [23] 1576; [26] 782
- Landseer's Picture—"A Dialogue at Waterloo" [29] 23
- Law Officers of the Crown [23] 1682; [24] 37; [26] 1298
- Licence Fees—Retail Licensed Victuallers [24] 810
- Merchandise Marks Act—Cement Imported at Liverpool [25] 42
- Meriall's Charity, Swanscombe [29] 372
- National Gallery [26] 792; [27] 1140
- Naval Expenditure—Unexpended Balances, &c. [24] 1273; [26] 235
- New Forest, Cricket in [28] 29
- Nonconformists, State Grants to [28] 477
- Notice of Accidents [Expenses], Res. [24] 1082
- "Parliamentary Debates" Index [22] 1444; [25] 16
- Parliamentary Expenditure on Commissions and Returns [29] 349
- Parliamentary Select Committee Evidence, Indexes to [28] 1231
- Postcards [25] 6; [26] 799
- Private Bills, Cost of [23] 23
- Public Record Office [29] 408
- Public Works Loans Bill, Intro. [24] 994; Com. [25] 131; 3R., 493
- Returning Officers' Charges [24] 1531
- River Suck Drainage Bill, Con. [26] 321
- Royal Commissions, Costs of [28] 239
- Royal Liver Society [25] 1070; [27] 1119
- Scotland
  - Aberdeen University Library [24] 1399
  - Commissary Clerks and the Finance Bill [25] 1528
  - Defendants' Travelling Expenses [26] 798
  - Dog Licence Prosecutions [27] 23

[*cont.*

Hibbert, Right Hon. Sir J. T.—*cont.*
- Scotland—*cont.*
  - Edinburgh Castle Rock [22] 1449
  - Fishing Licences [24] 1174
  - Government Messengers in Glasgow [26] 1473
- Stationery Office Publications, Return [23] 855
- Straits Settlements—Military Contributions [29] 172
- Supply
  - Appropriations in Aid [22] 375, 376
  - British Museum, &c. [22] 832, 833, 1065, 1067
  - Burlington House [24] 971, 978
  - Civil Servants and District and Parish Councils [27] 1299, 1300, 1301, 1303
  - County Courts [22] 375
  - Crofter Dog Licences [29] 116
  - Diplomatic and Consular Buildings [22] 1084
  - House of Commons Clerks [28] 1432
  - House of Commons Kitchen Committee [24] 1296
  - House of Commons Offices [22] 351, 354; Commission on [22] 352, 356, 357, 358, 359
  - House of Lords Offices [22] 800; [27] 1290; [28] 1424
  - London University, &c. [24] 960, 961
  - Lord Lieutenant of Ireland's Household [25] 1548
  - Metropolitan Police Courts [22] 994, 996, 997, 998
  - Museums [29] 217
  - National Gallery [22] 833
  - National Gallery, Ireland [29] 75, 76, 77
  - National Portrait Gallery [29] 218
  - Parliamentary Papers [28] 1432
  - Petitions to the House of Commons [22] 352
  - Plurality of Appointments [22] 353, 355, 795
  - Post Office Buildings [24] 937
  - Printing Contracts—Trade Union Wages, &c. [28] 1564, 1579, 1581
  - Professor Rhys-Davids' Pension [27] 1295
  - Public Works and Buildings in Ireland [28] 1414, 1415, 1417
  - Quarantine System [28] 1482
  - Railways, Ireland [25] 1546; [28] 1420, 1421, 1422, 1423
  - Rating of Government Property [27] 1279, 1280, 1281, 1282, 1283, 1287; [28] 1404, 1405, 1407, 1408, 1409
  - Royal Kew Observatory [22] 970
  - Salmon Fishing Licences [28] 1586, 1587
  - Science and Art Department [29] 91
  - Scotch Votes [28] 1555
  - Slave Trade [29] 331
  - Stationery Tenders [28] 1581
  - Vote on Account [22] 806
  - Wicklow Harbour [27] 1288
  - Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues Office [28] 1582
- Ways and Means — Financial Statement, Com. [23] 528
- Whitehall Hired Writers [29] 171
- Windsor Forest, Charge for Keys to [24] 1276
- Windsor Park—Polo [24] 1276
- Wolverhampton Post Office [26] 1482

HICKMAN, Sir A., *Wolverhampton, W.*
- Canal Tolls and Charges Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill, Con. [27] 1370
- Factory Offices, Wolverhampton [24] 27
- Great Western Railway (No. 1) Bill, Instr. to Com. [25] 1067
- Indian Railway Contracts [22] 153, 439
- Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, 2R. [23] 1338
- Rating of Machinery Bill, 2R. [24] 735
- Volunteers Long-Service Medal [26] 232
- Wolverhampton Post Office [26] 1481

High Seas, Offences on
- Q. Mr. T. Chamberlayne; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 24, 416

High Sheriffs
- Select Com. appointed *May* 8 [24] 578
- Report *June* 5 [25] 394
- *Irish Questions* (see under IRELAND)

"*Highbury*" *Loss of the* (see under *Merchant Shipping*)

HILL, Colonel Sir E. S., *Bristol, S.*
- Army Estimates—Volunteers [26] 895
- Indian Stores, Contracts for [25] 41
- Merchandise Marks Act—Cement Imported at Liverpool [25] 42
- Thames Conservancy Bill, Instr. to Com. [24] 1382

HILL, Right Hon. A. Staveley, *Staffordshire, Kingswinford*
- Behring Sea Award Bill, 2R. [22] 1486
- Canadian Cattle [23] 1085

Historical Manuscripts Commission
- *Ancient Manuscripts in Welsh Libraries*, Q. Mr. F. Edwards; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 12 [25] 911
- *Copy pres. June* 8 [25] 760

HOARE, Mr. E. B., *Hampstead*
- Income Tax—Minors [23] 219
- Ways and Means — Financial Statement, Com. [23] 550, 552

HOARE, Mr. H. E., *Cambridge, Chesterton*
- Green Park [25] 903
- Local Government Board Inspectors [29] 357
- Market Produce Traffic on the Great Eastern Railway [29] 354
- Oakington Overseers [24] 38
- Supply—Industrial Schools [29] 342
- Weather Forecasts [28] 774

HOARE, Mr. S., *Norwich*
- Army Estimates—Militia [26] 859, 861
- Finance Bill, Con. [26] 1380
- Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, 2R. [24] 724

HOBHOUSE, Mr. C. E. H., *Wilts, Devizes*
- Crown Lands and Cottages [23] 609
- Dinder Charity Lands [23] 186
- District Boards of Works [25] 900
- Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 522, 524, 572
- Roadside Grazing Rights [26] 117

HOBHOUSE, Mr. H., *Somerset, E.*
- Finance Bill, Com. [25] 91, 535, 537, 612; [26] 65
- Local Government Act [22] 344; [26] 1194
- School Attendance Committees [26] 1193

HOGAN, Mr. J. F., *Tipperary, Mid.*
- Auckland University—Case of Mr. Aldis [25] 1634
- Australian Mails and the United States Riots [26] 1572; [27] 364
- Colonial Officers and Military Appointments [24] 1164
- Colonies and New Death Duties [25] 1097
- "Costa Rica Packet" [23] 971; [24] 777; [26] 222, 563, 948, 1476; [27] 547; [28] 244
- Emigrants' Information Office [22] 686
- Fiji
  - Native Outbreak [26] 1560; [28] 261
  - Taxation [27] 794
- Labourers' Cottages in Tipperary [24] 201
- New Zealand Fiscal Policy [27] 367
- Ottawa Conference Report [27] 794
- Pacific Cable Route [27] 363
- Rural Postmen [27] 1387
- Samoans [23] 1661; [25] 419; [27] 1386
- West Indian and South American Mails [22] 561

HOLDEN, MR. A., *York, E.R., Buckrose*
- Harbours of Refuge [22] 1445

HOLDEN, Sir I., *York, W.R., Keighley*
- Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 844

HOLLAND, Mr. W. H., *Salford, N.*
- East India Revenue Accounts, Com. [28] 1325
- Elections (Second Ballot) Bill, Intro. [24] 140
- Finance Bill, 3R. [27] 235
- German-Made Brushes, Importation of [23] 1586
- Russo-German Commercial Treaty [22] 1514

HOME DEPARTMENT
Secretary of State—Mr. Asquith
Under Secretary of State—Mr. G. W. E. Russell
Clerks and Officials—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 17 [28] 1437, 1439, &c.
Licence Fees, Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 5 [22] 1445
Vote for, and Debate on, *Aug* 17 [28] 1434
(See under title *Law and Justice and Police*, &c.)

Home Rule for Scotland (see under Scotland)

Honduras and Nicaragua
Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 4 [25] 283

Hong Kong
Canadian Pacific Railway—Parcels from Hong Kong, Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. A. Morley *June* 4 [25] 287
Deportation of a Destitute Irishwoman, Q. Dr. Kenny; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 31 [25] 32
Plague, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 14 [25] 1094; Q. Mr. Webster; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 26 [26] 238; Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 28, 444; Q. Mr. Webster; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 29, 567; Q. Major Rasch; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 3, 795; Q. Mr. Webster; A. Mr. Woodall *Aug* 16 [28] 1224
Vaccination, Q. Mr. Smith-Barry; A. Mr. Buxton *May* 8 [24] 599

Honours, Bestowal of
Motion for an Address (Sir W. Lawson) *May* 4 [24] 410

Hood of Avalon, Lord
Navy, State of [24] 425, 441

Hop Substitutes Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Brookfield; Read 1° *Mar* 29 [22] 999
[Dropped]

Hope, Captain T., *Linlithgow*
Barry Links [28] 463
Edinburgh—Road Subventions [23] 838
Local Government (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [24] 1056; Con. [28] 422, 425, 488, 515, 527, 546, 570, 617
Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [23] 1608

Hopwood, Mr. C. H., *Lancashire, S.E., Middleton*
Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, Con. [27] 1611, 1612, 1614, 1616, 1621, 1629, 1657; [28] 403, 405
Chimney Sweepers Bill, Com. [25] 888, 889
Compulsory Vaccination Abolition Bill, Intro. [22] 452
Court of Criminal Appeal [24] 606; [28] 998
Deaths from Small-Pox at Birmingham—Alleged Inaccurate Death Certificates [24] 34
Excise Appointments—Age of Qualification [28] 9
Finance Bill, Con. [26] 1609
Life Sentences in Ireland [26] 676
Non-Payment of Rates, Imprisonment for [27] 664
Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, 2R. [22] 1378; Com. [24] 1085. 1086, 1087, 1088, 1089, 1092, 1098, 1099, 1104, 1111, 1113, 1114, 1117, 1118, 1120; Con. [25] 541
Prisons Committee [25] 812
Public Buildings (London) Bill, Com. [24] 1126
Revision of Long Sentences [26] 134
Small-Pox at Coventry [28] 997

Vaccination
- Death of a Child at Bury [23] 984
- Legislation [22] 683
- London Constables [28] 9

Horses, Cruelty to
Cab Horses, Treatment of, Q. Mr. B. Robinson; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 14 [25] 1089
Leading Horses, Q. Mr. J. Burns; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 17 [23] 625
Meet, William, Omnibus Proprietor, Q. Mr. B. Robinson; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 10 [23] 16
Sentence on George Ball, Q. Mr. Cobb; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 29 [24] 1539
Van Horses in London, Qs. Captain Donelan, Mr. H. L. W. Lawson; As. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 3 [28] 15
Wynn, Sir W. W., Qs. Mr. A. C. Morton; As. Mr. Asquith *April* 30 [23] 1673; *May* 31 [25] 38

Houldsworth, Sir W. H., *Manchester, N.W.*
Companies Act (1862) Amendment Bill, Intro. [22] 452
East India Revenue Accounts [28] 768; Com., 1312
Gold and Silver Commission Report [23] 1089

India
- Cotton Duties [27] 1141
- Finance, Discussion on [27] 1020

Hours of Labour (Local Authorities, &c.) Servants Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Macdonald; Read 1° *April* 3 [22] 1316
[Dropped]

House of Commons and *House of Lords* (see under *Parliament*)

House of Lords Veto Abolition Bill
c. Intro., Mr. E. J. C. Morton; Read 1° *April* 17 [23] 747
[Dropped]

Housing of the Working Classes Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Stern; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 459
[Dropped]

Housing of the Working Classes (Borrowing Powers) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Shaw-Lefevre; Read 1° *July* 26 [27] 1027
2R. deferred *Aug* 3, 115; *Aug* 7 [28] 366
Read 2° *Aug* 9, 548
Con. in Com.; Reported; Read 3°, and passed *Aug* 10, 650
l. Read 1ª *Aug* 13, 756
Read 2ª *Aug* 16, 1164
Com.; Reported *Aug* 17, 1377
Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 20 [29] 9
Royal Assent *Aug* 25
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 55]

Housing of the Working Classes—Standing Order 183a
Qs. Mr. Stuart-Wortley; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 7 [28] 255

HOWARD, Mr. J., *Middlesex, Tottenham*
Canadian Tea Duties [23] 183, 455, 836, 1094
Lead-Poisoning—Death at Greenwich Workhouse [27] 1022
Music and Dancing Licences (Middlesex) Bill, Intro. [22] 452; 2R., 1376; Com. [24] 1123, 1124
Sparkbrook Factory [23] 1218

HOWELL, Mr. G., *Bethnal Green, N.E.*
Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, Con. [27] 1627, 1637, 1641; [28] 112; Lords Amendts. [29] 284
Business of the House [27] 282
Cardiff Savings Bank [25] 1644
Charity Commission (Parliamentary Control), Res. [22] 1013
Corporate Associations (Property) Bill, Res. [22] 1092
Daniel's Charity, Swanscombe [28] 142
Engineer Examinations by the Board of Trade [24] 463
[*cont.*

HOWELL, Mr. G.—*cont.*
Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, Com. [28] 75
H.M.S. "Crescent" [22] 443
Industrial and Provident Societies Act (1893) Amendment Bill, Res. [22] 785
Introduction of and Ballotting for Bills [22] 161
London County Council (General Powers) Bill, Con. [24] 693, 699, 1508, 1510
Alleged Mistake in the Entry [25] 4
London Parochial Charities [28] 142
London Streets and Buildings Bill [22] 1107; Select Com., 1426; Instr. to Com. [26] 943; Con. [27] 3
Long-Sentence Prisoners [26] 782
Meriall's Charity [29] 371
Navy—Engine-Room Artificers [22] 776
Parliamentary Election Expenses, Res. [24] 1339
Parliamentary Elections Bill, Intro. [22] 456
Period of Qualification and Elections Bill [24] 408
Police and Sanitary Regulations Committee [22] 1212
Post Office Savings Banks—Trade Societies Deposits and Investments [25] 793
Private Bills, Cost of [23] 23
Supply
House of Commons Offices [22] 352, 358
Professor Rhys-Davids [27] 1294
Trade Union Reports [22] 564

HOWORTH, Sir H. H., *Salford, S.*
South Kensington Museum—Antique Casts [24] 227

HOWTH, Earl of
Sanitary Condition of Howth and Clontarf [23] 1211, 1405
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [28] 942

Hoylake, Casualties to Vessels at
Q. Colonel Cotton-Jodrell; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 30 [23] 1664

HOZIER, Mr. J. H. C., *Lanarkshire, S.*
Business of the House [22] 269; [28] 32, 33, 479
Central American Republics—British Trade [28] 1379
Chino-Japanese War [29] 167
Established Church (Wales) Bill [23] 219
Fruit Identification Bill, Intro. [22] 454; 2R. [23] 165, 166, 167
Local Government (Scotland) Bill [27] 1144, 1565; 2R. [24] 1039; Con. [28] 498, 503, 507, 512, 520, 521, 522, 530, 584, 589, 609, 618, 623, 634; Lords Amendts. [29] 285
Metalliferous Mines Inspectors [28] 14
New Writ for Berwickshire [22] 296
Quarries Bill, 2R. [28] 547
[*cont.*

HOZIER, Mr. J. H. C.—*cont.*
  Scotland
    Disestablishment [22] 696 ; [29] 150
    Education Code [29] 168
    Employers' Liability [23] 854
    Hamilton Brigade Depôt [22] 142
    Home Rule, Res. [22] 1297
    Parochial Grants [22] 142
    Private Bill Legislation [22] 691
    Rosebery's, Lord, Visit to Edinburgh [22] 348
    Service Franchise [23] 841
    Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [22] 1141 ; [23] 1590, 1591, 1606
    Veterinary College Grant [22] 346

Huddersfield (Polling Districts)
  Copy pres. July 19 [27] 488

HUGHES, Colonel E., *Woolwich*
  Army Estimates
    Volunteers [26] 892
    Waltham Abbey Powder Factory Explosions—Pensions [27] 329
  Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, Con. [27] 1606, 1611, 1616, 1618, 1620, 1623, 1625, 1627, 1629, 1640, 1643, 1644, 1646, 1651, 1652, 1653, 1654, 1656 ; [28] 403, 409
  East London Water Bill, 2R. [22] 1409
  Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, Com. [28] 48, 49, 63, 74, 81, 88, 102, 107, 388, 393, 398
  Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, 2R. [24] 732
  Parochial Electors (Registration Acceleration) Bill, Com. [26] 1156
  Public Buildings (London) Bill, Intro. [22] 460 ; 2R., 1315 ; Com. [24] 1125, 1126 ; Con. [28] 427
  Small Holdings (Ireland), Res. [23] 420

HUMPHREYS-OWEN, Mr. A. C., *Montgomery Co.*
  Bishop of St. Asaph and Mr. Acland [27] 1575
  Church Property in Wales [26] 689
  Colleges, Welsh [29] 410
  Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 863 ; Con. [27] 34
  Incidence of Taxation [27] 806
  Land Commission Report [26] 690
  Supply
    Census Papers [29] 41, 44
    Land Commission [29] 107
    Light Railways [28] 1422

HUNT, Sir F. Seager, *Marylebone, W.*
  Navy—Tenders for Ships [24] 1165

HUNTER, Mr. W. A., *Aberdeen, N.*
  Attercliffe Vacancy—"Official Delegate of the Government Whips" [26] 568
  Cambridge Corporation Bill, Con. [24] 342
  Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 672, 673
  Marking of Foreign Meat [23] 27

UNTER, Mr. W. A.—*cont.*
  Old Age Provident Pensions Bill, 2R. [22] 1369
  Police Pensions in Scotland [26] 1482 ; [27] 1007
  Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Com. [24] 1093, 1104
  Railway Rates and Charges Provisional Order (Easingwold Railway, &c.) Bill, 2R. [24] 1259
  Saxe-Coburg, Duke of (Annuity), Res. [23] 1043, 1046
  Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [23] 653, 658, 666, 1001, 1606
  Tuberculosis Commission Report [27] 548
  Ways and Means — Financial Statement, Com. [23] 1184

HUNTLY, Marquess of
  Canal Rates, Tolls, and Charges Provisional Order (No. 2) Bill, 3R. [28] 892
  Injured Animals Bill, Com. [25] 763
  Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Com. [28] 1168, 1169, 1174, 1175, 1185, 1187, 1190, 1197, 1201, 1202, 1209, 1210
  Trout Fishing (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [24] 1366

HUTCHINSON, Captain W. G. GRICE-, *Aston Manor*
  Army—Discharged and Reserve Soldiers, Employment for, Res. [22] 519
  Coroners' Act (1887) Amendment Bill, Intro. [22] 458
  Law Officers' Compulsory Retirement [25] 10
  Malta Harbour—Valetta Sewage [27] 168
  Police Protection Duty [27] 168

Hyde Park (see under *Parks*)

ILLINGWORTH, Mr. A., *Bradford, W.*
  Established Church (Wales) Bill — Motion for Leave [23] 1767
  Standing Com. (Scotland), Res. [23] 1031, 1032
  Ways and Means — Financial Statement, Com. [23] 542, 1184

Imperial and Naval Defence Act
  Financial Statement *April* 23 [23] 1193

Imperial Defence and the Colonies
  Q. Colonel H. Vincent ; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 29 [26] 566 ; Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. Arnold-Forster ; As. Mr. Buxton *July* 12, 1465

Importation of Prison-Made Goods (see under *Trade, Board of*)

Importation of Prison-Made Goods Bill
c. Intro., Colonel H. Vincent; Read 1° *May* 9 [24] 748
2R. deferred *June* 28 [26] 513
[Dropped]

Income Tax (see under titles *Customs, Excise, and Inland Revenue,* and *Ways and Means*)

INDIA
Secretary of State—Mr. H. H. FOWLER
Under Secretary of State—Lord REAY
Abor Tribes, Treaties with, Q. Mr. H. J. Wilson; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 12 [25] 902
Afghan War Promotions, Q. Sir S. King; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 25 [26] 118
Afghanistan—Sir M. Durand's Mission—Papers, Q. Mr. Curzon; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Mar* 15 [22] 336
Agriculturists' Grievances at Bombay, Q. Sir W. Wedderburn; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 24 [24] 1157

Army
Cantonment Regulations, Q. Mr. Stansfeld; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 23 [23] 1082; *July* 13 [26] 1570
Catholic Ceremonies, Soldiers at, Q. Mr. W. Johnston; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 28 [26] 438
Contagious Diseases Acts, Q. Mr. W. M'Laren; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 28 [26] 439
Contagious Diseases among the Troops, Q. Mr. Jeffreys; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 20 [23] 983; Q. Sir R. Temple; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 23, 1083
References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, June* 13 [25] 1019, &c.; 1025, &c.
Dum Dum Murder—Private O'Hara, Q. Mr. Caine; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 5 [22] 1438
Expenditure, Qs. Sir D. Macfarlane; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 19 [23] 860; *July* 26 [27] 1020; *Aug* 7 [28] 266; Q. Sir W. Wedderburn; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Aug* 23 [29] 352
Return pres. *June* 11 [25] 892
Field Hospital Training, Q. Mr. Byles; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 10 [24] 785
Firearm Fatalities, Q. Mr. Caine; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 5 [25] 400
Home Pensions, Increase in, Q. Sir D. Macfarlane; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *July* 20 [27] 546
Imprisonment of Soldiers—References to, in Debate on the *Army (Annual) Bill, April* 16 [23] 562, &c.
Lance-Corporals, Q. Colonel Waring; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 5 [25] 399; Q. Colonel Waring; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 7, 583
Madras and Bombay Commands, Q. Sir C. Dilke; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Mar* 13 [22] 140

[*cont.*

INDIA—cont.
Army—cont.
Military and Orphan Funds, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *July* 31 [27] 1399
Mutinous Conduct of Native Troops, Q. Mr. Brodrick; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 10 [24] 811; Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 24, 1162
Nursing Fever Patients, Q. Viscount Folkestone; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *July* 13 [26] 1557
Officers' Debts, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Aug* 7 [28] 266
Officers' Pay, Q. Mr. Naoroji; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 20 [23] 970
Reliefs, Qs. Mr. Tomlinson; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 31 [25] 8; *June* 5, 403
Staff Corps Officers' Grievances, Q. Mr. Talbot; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 2 [22] 1099; Q. Dr. Farquharson; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 3 [24] 230; Qs. Sir S. King, Mr. Arnold-Forster; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 31 [25] 6; Q. Mr. Rentoul; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *July* 10 [26] 1308; Q. Sir S. King; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *July* 19 [27] 357
Station Hospitals — Savings, Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Aug* 2 [27] 1569
Troopships, Q. Mr. Forwood; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 19 [22] 574; Q. Mr. Baker; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *April* 6, 1507; Q. Mr. Webster; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 25 [24] 1263; Qs. Sir W. Wedderburn, Sir J. Fergusson; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Aug* 2 [27] 1572
Waziri Expedition Medal, Q. Sir A. Acland-Hood; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *July* 23 [27] 671

Assam—Agrarian Riots, Q. Sir W. Wedderburn; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 24 [24] 1166
Baladhun Murder Case, Qs. Mr. Caine; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 2 [22] 1094; *May* 8 [24] 596; *June* 5 [25] 396; Q. Mr. Naoroji; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *July* 6 [26] 1081
Bassantpore Riot Case—Police Inspector Gaitri Prosonno, Q. Mr. Caine; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 7 [25] 560
Behar Cadastral Survey, Qs. and Obs. Lord Stanley of Alderley, Lord Reay *April* 16 [23] 443; Qs. Mr. H. Heaton; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 4 [25] 296; *June* 7, 568; Q. Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 7, 547; *July* 12 [26] 1469; Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *July* 24 [27] 812; Q. Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Aug* 13 [28] 763; Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Aug* 21 [29] 159
Bengal District Magistracy, Q. Sir W. Wedderburn; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 31 [26] 5
Bengal Jury Commission, Q. Mr. Paul; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 25 [26] 119
Bhagalpore Murder Case, Qs. Mr. Caine; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 12 [23] 202; *June* 21 [25] 1647

[*cont.*

INDIA—cont.

Bhai Jasmair Singh, Q. Mr. A. C. Morton; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Aug* 23 [29] 360

Bombay and Aden Mail Officers, Q. Sir W. Wedderburn; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Aug* 9 [28] 476

Budget (see sub-heading *Revenue Accounts*)

Bulwant Rao Bute, Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Aug* 7 [28] 259; *Aug* 16, 1247

Burma—Assistant Commissioners, Q. Sir S. King; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 7 [25] 563

Burmese Frontier—Kiang Hung, Cession of, to China, Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 2 [22] 1098; Qs. Mr. Curzon; As. Sir E. Grey *May* 3 [24] 217; *July* 17 [27] 167

Cantonment Regulations (see under sub-heading *Army*)

Civil Service Examinations, Q. Mr. Curzon; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Mar* 15 [22] 335; Qs. Mr. Paul, Mr. Caine; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 29 [24] 1536
Copy pres. *May* 10 [24] 911

Chitral Affairs, Qs. Sir C. Dilke; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 5 [25] 420; *June* 8, 688

Cholera, Inoculation against, Q. Mr. S. Smith; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 19 [25] 1462

Clark, Mr. J., Deputy Commissioner of Cachar, Q. Mr. Caine; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 5 [25] 396

Coal Mines (see sub-heading *Mines*)

Contagious Diseases Acts (see under sub-heading *Army*)

Contracts for Stores, Q. Colonel Hill; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 31 [25] 41

Contribution to Legation and Consular Buildings in China—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Mar* 30 [22] 1081

Cotton Duties (see under sub-heading *Import Duties*)

Councils Act (Return), Q. Mr. Caine; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 2 [22] 1093

Criminal Procedure, Q. Sir W. Wedderburn; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 3 [24] 222

Debates on Indian Questions, Q. Mr. A. C. Morton; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 29 [24] 1536

Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Acts, Q. Sir W. Wedderburn; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 31 [25] 17
Return pres. *June* 11 [25] 892

Destitute Indians at Swansea, Q. Mr. Burnie; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 12 [25] 927

Dum Dum Murder (see under sub-heading *Army*)

Exchange Compensation Allowances, Q. Sir W. Wedderburn; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Aug* 23 [29] 351

Famine Commission Recommendations, Address for Copies *April* 24 [23] 1328

Finance (see sub-heading *Revenue*)

Firearm Fatalities, Q. Mr. Caine; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 5 [25] 400

INDIA—cont.

Forest Service Department, Q. Sir R. Temple; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *July* 31 [27] 1400

Four Per Cent. Rupee Loan Conversion, Q. Mr. Cohen; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Aug* 2 [27] 1584

Fulta Shooting Case, Q. Mr. Caine; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 12 [23] 205

Government of India, Debate on, *Aug* 14 [28] 1047; *Aug* 15, 1085

Home Accounts, Copy pres. *May* 8 [24] 692

Import Duties
  Cotton, Q. Sir D. Macfarlane, Mr. Whiteley; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler, Sir W. Harcourt *Mar* 15 [22] 327; Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Mar* 15, 347; Qs. Sir M. Stewart, Mr. Wickham; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Mar* 16, 443; Q. Sir D. Macfarlane; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Mar* 19, 564; Qs. Sir D. Macfarlane, Mr. Whiteley; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 5, 1440; Q. and Obs. Marquess of Lansdowne, Lord Reay, Lord Roberts of Kandahar, Viscount Cross, Earl of Kimberley, Earl of Northbrook, Lord Herschell *July* 20 [27] 490; Q. Sir W. Houldsworth; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *July* 27, 1141
  Sheffield Goods, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Aug* 23 [29] 359

India Office—Assistant Clerks, Q. Mr. Macdonald; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 12 [23] 193

Jute Mills—Night Work, Q. Sir J. Leng; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 1 [25] 180

Kine, Slaughter of, in Behar, Qs. Sir W. Wedderburn; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 3 [24] 219; *July* 26 [27] 1026

Kunhi Kannan, Mr. C., Charges against, Q. Mr. Caine; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 2 [22] 1094

Land Revenue, Q. Sir W. Wedderburn; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 19 [23] 838

Legislative Councils, Qs. Sir W. Wedderburn; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 31 [25] 16; *Aug* 2 [27] 1560
Address for Return (Viscount Cross) *April* 26 [23] 1385

Loans Raised in India, Copy pres. *June* 28 [26] 516

Manipuris, Wrongful Conviction of, Q. Mr. Caine; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 8 [24] 596

Mehdi Hassan's Action for Defamation, Qs. Mr. S. Keay; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 7 [24] 458; *May* 28, 1408

Michell, Mr., Appointment of, Q. Sir W. Wedderburn; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *July* 20 [27] 549

Mines
  Coal Mines Inspector's Report, Q. Mr. Provand; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Aug* 23 [29] 356
  Umaria Collieries, Q. Mr. Schwann; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *July* 13 [26] 1562
  Women in, Qs. Mr. Provand, Sir J. Gorst; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 23 [23] 1093; Q. Sir J. Gorst; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 26, 1421

[*cont.*

INDIA—cont.

Mints, Closing of, Qs. Mr. Conybeare, Sir B. Samuelson; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 30 [23] 1675; Obs. Earl of Leven and Melville, Marquess of Lansdowne, Lord Reay, Viscount Cross, Lord Herschell *June* 29 [26] 525

Missionary, Imprisonment of, at Bombay, Q. Mr. S. Smith; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 4 [24] 363

Missions—Midnight Mission at Bombay, Q. Mr. S. Smith; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 4 [24] 363

Newspaper Postage, Qs. Mr. Caine; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 12 [23] 204

Official Publications, Q. Mr. H. Plunkett; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 10 [23] 15

Opium

Commission, Qs. Sir G. Chesney, Sir D. Macfarlane; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Mar* 20 [22] 677; Qs. Mr. J. E. Ellis; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 26 [23] 1406; *June* 28 [26] 243; Q. and Obs. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Lord Brassey *Aug* 3 [28] 1; Q. Mr. Talbot; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Aug* 3, 31

Copy pres. Mar 13 [22] 255

References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 20 [29] 108, &c.

Dens in Bombay, Qs. Mr. S. Smith, Mr. Wolff; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 19 [25] 1469

Department—Reports of Administration, Q. Mr. Webb; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *July* 27 [27] 1130

Exports to China, Qs. Mr. J. E. Ellis; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 8 [24] 589; *July* 16 [27] 13

Revenue, Return pres.; to be printed *Aug* 1 [27] 1555

Orphan and Military Funds, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *July* 31 [27] 1399

Pensions and the Finance Bill, Q. Sir A. Scoble; A. Sir J. Rigby *June* 21 [25] 1644; Q. Sir R. Temple; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 26 [26] 222

Pensions, Return pres. *Mar* 13 [22] 256

Permanent Settlement of Bengal, Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 4 [25] 296

Pilot Service, Bengal, Q. Sir S. King; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 12 [25] 901

Police Force—Assistant Superintendents, Qs. Mr. Caine, Sir W. Wedderburn; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 12 [23] 203

Prisons, Mortality in, Qs. Mr. S. Smith, Mr. Hanbury, Sir J. Fergusson; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 17 [23] 617; Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 1 [24] 31

Public Service Commission, Qs. Sir W. Wedderburn; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Mar* 15 [22] 316; *July* 26 [27] 1026

Railways

Construction by Private Companies, Q. Sir R. Temple; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Aug* 17 [28] 1385

Contracts, Qs. Sir A. Hickman; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Mar* 13 [22] 153; *Mar* 16, 439

[*cont.*

INDIA—cont.

Railways—cont.

Funds, Q. Sir J. Kitson; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *July* 13 [26] 1558

Public Expenditure on, Q. Sir W. Wedderburn; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 26 [26] 223

Special Trains for Government Officials, Q. Mr. Caine; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 7 [25] 586

Staff, Q. Sir S. King; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *July* 10 [26] 1307

Religious Impartiality, Q. Sir W. Wedderburn; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 5 [22] 1447

Revenue

Accounts, Discussion on, &c., Q. Mr. Everett; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 4 [25] 310; Q. Sir W. Houldsworth; A. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 26 [27] 1020; Q. Mr. Goschen; A. Sir. W. Harcourt *Aug* 2, 1585; Q. Mr. Buchanan; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Aug* 3 [28] 20; Qs. Mr. Buchanan, Sir W. Houldsworth, Mr. Tomlinson; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Aug* 13 [28] 768

Accounts, Order for Com.; Amendt. (Mr. S. Smith) and Debate adjourned *Aug* 14 [28] 1047; Debate resumed *Aug* 15, 1085; Amendt. withdrawn, R.P.; Con. in Com. *Aug* 16, 1271; Report *Aug* 17 [28] 1488

Cotton Duties (see under sub-heading *Import Duties*)

Estimate of Revenue and Expenditure, Copy pres. *May* 8 [24] 691

Finance and Revenue Accounts, Copy pres. *May* 8 [24] 691

Financial Expenditure—Committee of Inquiry, Q. Sir W. Wedderburn; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Aug* 23 [29] 351

Financial Statement, Return pres. *April* 26 [23] 1552

Res., in Debate in reply to *Queen's Speech*, *Mar* 13 [22] 208

Riots, Instructions as to Blank and Ball Cartridges, Q. Mr. Caine; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 2 [22] 1093

Salt Laws, Obs. Lord Stanley of Alderley, Lord Reay, Marquess of Salisbury, Viscount Cross *April* 13 [23] 313

Salem—Criminal Appeals, Q. Mr. Crosfield; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *July* 16 [27] 13

"*Sanchi Tope*," *General Maisey's Book on*, Q. and Obs. Lord Stanley of Alderley, Lord Reay *April* 16 [23] 429

Sandeman, Sir R., Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Aug* 21 [29] 152

Smearing of Mango Trees, Qs. Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen; As. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 28 [24] 1414; *June* 7 [25] 547; Q. Mr. Caine; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 7 [25] 536

Tariff Bill, Q. Mr. Buchanan; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *Mar* 16 [22] 440

Motion for Address (Earl of Northbrook) *June* 29 [26] 558

Telegraph Department Contracts, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 16 [23] 462

[*cont.*

INDIA—cont.

Text Books in Schools, Q. Sir W. Wedderburn; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *April* 5 [22] 1447

Wheat, Copy pres. *July* 4 [26] 920

Wheat (*Grain Elevators*), Copy pres. *July* 4 [26] 920

Indian Railway Companies Bill

c. Intro., Mr. H. H. Fowler; Read 1° *April* 20 [23] 1066
2R. deferred *May* 7 [24] 573
Read 2° *May* 8, 690
Con. in Com., and Reported *May* 28, 1494
Read 3°, and passed *June* 4 [25] 388
l. Read 1ª *June* 5, 395
Read 2ª *June* 8, 669
Com.; Re-com. to Standing Com. *June* 11, 788
Reported from Standing Com. *June* 12, 896
Amendts. reported *June* 14, 1058
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 15, 1205
c. Lords Amendts. con., and agreed to *June* 19, 1544
l. Returned from the Commons *June* 19, 1447
Royal Assent *July* 3
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 12]

Industrial and Provident Societies Act (1893) Amendment Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Howell; Read 1° *Mar* 20 [22] 785
Read 2° *April* 11 [23] 170
Com., and Reported; Read 3°, and passed *April* 18, 811
l. Read 1ª *April* 19, 822
Read 2ª *May* 8 [24] 577
Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *May* 10, 749
Read 3ª, and passed *May* 29, 1506
Returned from the Commons with Amendts. agreed to *June* 4 [25] 281
Royal Assent *June* 18
[57° Vic. c. 8]

Industrial and Provident Societies (Purchase of Fee Simple) Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Lambert; Read 1° *May* 4 [24] 410
[Dropped]

Industrial Assurance Companies and the Budget

Q. Sir H. Maxwell; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 8 [24] 608

Industrial Schools Bill

l. Pres., Lord Leigh; Read 1ª *July* 5 [26] 942
Read 2ª *July* 9, 1178
Com.; Reported, and Re-com. to Standing Com. *July* 16 [27] 2

[*cont.*

Industrial Schools Bill—cont.

Reported from Standing Com. *July* 17, 157
Amendts. reported *July* 23, 655
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 24, 790
c. Read 1° *July* 26, 1107
Read 2° *July* 30, 1363
Con. in Com.; Read 3°, and passed *July* 31, 1492
Royal Assent *Aug* 17
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 33]

Industrial Schools, St. John's, Walthamstow

Q. Mr. A. O'Connor; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 21 [29] 170

Inebriates (see under *Habitual Inebriates*)

Infectious Diseases (Notification) Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Bolitho; Read 1° *May* 1 [24] 140
[Dropped]

INGRAM, Sir W. J., *Boston*

Voluntary Conveyances Bill, Blocking of, by Mr. Perks [23] 643, 647

Injured Animals Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Banbury; Read 1° *May* 1 [24] 140
Read 2° *May* 9, 747
Con. in Com.; R.P. *May* 21, 994
Con. in Com.; Reported; Read 3°, and passed *May* 28, 1502
l. Read 1ª *May* 29, 1508
Read 2ª *June* 5 [25] 392
Com.; Re-com. to Standing Com. *June* 11, 761
Reported from Select Com. *June* 26 [26] 216
Amendts. reported *June* 28, 390
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 3, 774
c. Lords Amendts. con., and agreed to *July* 6, 1167
l. Returned from the Commons, with an Amendt. *July* 6, 1061
Commons Amendt. to Lords Amendts. con. and agreed to *July* 12, 1439
Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 22]

Inland Revenue (see under title *Customs, Excise, and Inland Revenue*)

Insanity (see *Lunacy*)

International Code Book

Q. Mr. Tomlinson; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 20 [29] 19

International Conference for the Protection of Industrial Property

Q. Mr. Stuart-Wortley; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 24 [23] 1213

International Copyright Acts, 1844 to 1866
Copy pres. May 10 [24] 912

Intoxicating Liquors (Licences) Bill
c. Intro., Sir H. Roscoe; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 456
[Dropped]

Intoxicating Liquors (Local Veto) (Ireland) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. W. Johnston; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 455
Withdrawn *June* 20 [25] 1608

Ipswich Burial Board
Qs. Mr. Everett, Mr. J. E. Ellis; As. Mr. Asquith *April* 10 [23] 14

IRELAND
Lord Lieutenant—Lord Houghton
Chief Secretary—Mr. J. Morley
Achill Islanders, Prosecution of, Q. Dr. R. Ambrose; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 25 [26] 130
Achill Railway (see under sub-heading *Railways*)
Achill Seed Rate Collection—Q. Mr. W. O'Brien; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 21 [25] 1648
Administration, Q. Mr. A. J. Balfour; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 14 [25] 1101
References to, in Debate on *Supply, June* 20 [25] 1550 &c.
Reports, Q. Mr. T. W. Russell; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 13 [26] 1572
Agrarian Crime, Qs. Mr. T. W. Russell; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 14 [25] 1084; *June* 19, 1472
Cork Murder (see that sub-heading)
Agriculture
Board of, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 15 [22] 346; Qs. Mr. Field, Mr. Clancy; As. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 20, 686
Class Books, Q. Mr. Ffrench; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 9 [28] 458
Statistics Enumerators, Q. Mr. M. Healy; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 5 [25] 425
Annaly's, Lord, Estate Dispute—Imprisonment for Contempt of Court, &c., Qs. Mr. Hayden, Mr. Dane; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 24 [23] 1226; *April* 27, 1582
Antrim County Disturbances (see sub-heading *Orange Disturbances*)
Armagh—Attack on Presbyterian Children, Qs. Mr. Barton, Mr. Ross; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 10 [28] 568
Army
Antrim Castle Deer Park—Camp of Exercise, Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 19 [23] 846
Bands at Political Meetings, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Aug* 10 [28] 553; Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Flynn; As. Mr. Woodall *Aug* 16, 1243

IRELAND—cont.
Army—cont.
Bantry Bay Fortification Works, Q. Mr. Gilhooly; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Mar* 20 [22] 685
Belfast Disturbances—2nd Battalion Dorset Regiment, Qs. Mr. Wolff, Mr. M'Cartan; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 12 [23] 215; Q. Mr. Wingfield-Digby; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 27, 1587
Birr Barracks Scandal, Q. Mr. Molloy; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 19 [27] 379; Q. Mr. Brookfield; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 24, 801; Q. Mr. Molloy; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 26, 1026; Qs. Mr. Webb, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Dodd; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 6 [28] 127; Q. Mr. Webb; A. Mr. Woodall *Aug* 21 [29] 164
Canteen Supplies, Q. Mr. W. Redmond; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 24 [24] 1153
Carnacassa, Monaghan, Militia Camp at, Q. Mr. O'Driscoll; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 26 [23] 1410
Catholic Holidays, Q. Mr. Kennedy; A. Mr. Woodall *Aug* 23 [29] 359
Corcoran, Peter, Case of, Qs. Mr. Bodkin; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 12 [23] 214
Curragh Building—Killaloe Slates, &c., Q. Captain Donelan; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 2 [22] 1108; Q. Mr. P. J. O'Brien; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 26 [23] 1436; Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 25 [24] 1269; Q. Mr. MacNeill; A. Mr. Woodall *June* 28 [26] 440
Donegal Artillery, Q. Mr. Rentoul; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 22 [26] 21
Dublin Main Drainage Scheme—Pigeon House Fort—Richmond Prison, &c., Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 24 [27] 810; Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy, Dr. Kenny; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 26, 1008; Q. Mr. Ross; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Aug* 9 [28] 448; Qs. Mr. Ross; As. Mr. Woodall *Aug* 13, 761; *Aug* 16, 1241
References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, July* 5 [26] 1035, &c.; *July* 6, 1130, &c.
Examinations, Q. Mr. Sexton; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 30 [23] 1686
Glenbeigh Shell Fatality, Q. Sir T. Esmonde; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 11 [25] 790; References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, June* 13 [25] 1030, &c.
Inniskilling Fusiliers—Quartermaster, Q. Mr. Dane; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 26 [23] 1420
Kilbride Rifle Range, Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Clancy; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Aug* 9 [28] 445
Licensed Houses in Buttevant, Qs. Mr. Flynn, Mr. Webster; As. Mr. Woodall *April* 13 [23] 341

[cont.

IRELAND—cont.

Army—cont.

Londonderry Barracks, Q. Mr. Ross; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 12 [23] 184; Qs. Mr. Ross, Mr. W. Johnston; As. Mr. Woodall *Aug* 2 [27] 1561

Militia Sergeants' Pay, Q. Mr. Tully; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 8 [24] 594

Mullingar Water Supply, Q. Dr. Kenny; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Mar* 15 [22] 330

Officers at Race Meetings, Q. Mr. P. Smith; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 20 [23] 978

Soldiers' Institutes in Dublin, Q. Mr. A. O'Connor; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 2 [22] 1113

Soldiers on Irish Mail Boats, Q. Major Rasch; A. Mr. Burt *April* 16 [23] 1436; Qs. Major Rasch, Mr. W. Johnston; As. Mr. Mundella *May* 3 [24] 236

Soldiers Unloading Coal at Spike Island, Q. Captain Donelan; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 5 [22] 1450

Stewart, Colonel, Case of, Q. Mr. Rentoul; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 12 [25] 901; References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, July* 3 [26] 836, &c.

Taffe, Edward, Case of, Q. Mr. Bodkin; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 9 [22] 1572

Arran Islands—Destitution and Evictions, Q. Mr. Sheehy; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 15 [22] 319; Q. Mr. Sexton; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 5, 1459; Qs. Mr. Sexton, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 6, 1511; Qs. Mr. Sheehy, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 16 [23] 465; Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 17, 619; Qs. Mr. Sexton, Mr. W. Johnston, Mr. Channing; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 19, 833; Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 20, 972; Qs. Mr. Sexton, Mr. Channing; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 26, 1436; Qs. Mr. Sexton, Mr. W. Redmond, Mr. Channing; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 10 [24] 790

Assizes, Medical Witnesses at, Q. Mr. O'Keeffe; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 25 [26] 129

Athy Prosecutions, Q. Mr. Minch; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 26 [27] 1003

Ballymore Eustace Church, Breaking into, Q. Mr. W. Johnston; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 7 [28] 242

Bangor Pier and Harbour Works, Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 6 [22] 1509

Banking, Railway, and Shipping Statistics, Copy pres. *Aug* 10 [28] 651

Bankruptcy

Belfast, Q. Mr. Young; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 31 [25] 8

Dublin—Alleged Perjury, Q. and Obs. Lord Cloncurry, Lord Monkswell *Aug* 17 [28] 1373

Local Courts in the North-West of Ireland, Q. Mr. Ross; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 24 [24] 1159

Barbed Wire Fences, Q. Mr. M. Austin; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 26 [23] 1421

[*cont.*

IRELAND—cont.

Barony Constables in Monaghan County, Defalcations of, Q. Mr. Diamond; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 30 [23] 1672

Barrow Drainage Scheme, Q. Mr. A. O'Connor; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 23 [29] 362

Beer Barrels, Q. Mr. A. O'Connor; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 23 [29] 380

Beleek Floods, Qs. Mr. Knox, Mr. Dane; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 2 [27] 1577

Belfast Harbour and Wolff's Shipyard Labourers, Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 16 [22] 440

Belfast Ship's Carpenter, Manslaughter by, Qs. Mr. Mains, Mr. Ross, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 10 [23] 7

Belfast Warehouse Company, Q. Mr. E. M'Hugh; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 12 [25] 910

Berehaven Harbour, Q. Mr. Sexton; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 6 [26] 1063; Q. Mr. Gilhooly; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 23 [29] 351

Birr Barracks Scandal (see under sub-heading *Army*)

Board of Irish Lights (see sub-heading *Lights Board*)

Board of Public Works

Copy pres. July 10 [26] 1392

Contracts—Cement, Q. Dr. Kenny; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 27 [27] 1139

Inspectors, Q. Sir T. Esmonde; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 11 [25] 790

Land in Leitrim, Qs. Mr. Tully; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 10 [24] 784; *July* 10 [26] 1305

Loans, Q. Mr. Gilhooly; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Mar* 19 [22] 577; Qs. Mr. Gilhooly, Mr. Sexton; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Mar* 22, 874; Q. Mr. Gilhooly; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 27 [23] 1577; Qs. Mr. Bodkin; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 4 [25] 302; *June* 18, 1346; Qs. Mr. Sexton, Major Rasch; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 9 [28] 454

Public Works Loans (No. 3) Act 1893, Copy pres. *June* 28 [26] 516

Sankey, Sir R., Qs. Mr. Knox, Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 28 [24] 1405; Obs. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 31 [25] 29

Boycotting

Discussion on, June 20 [25] 1553, &c.; *June* 21, 1717, &c.

Incitement to, at Peake, County Cork, Qs. Mr. Dane, Mr. Macartney; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 27 [23] 1581

Kells, Qs. Mr. Carson, Mr. W. Kenny; As. Mr J. Morley *April* 2 [22] 1109; Q. Mr. T. W. Russell; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 26 [23] 1446

Meath and Louth Counties, Q. Mr. Dane; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 10 [24] 765

O'Callaghan, Colonel, Q. Mr. Macartney; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 17 [28] 1381; References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 20 [29] 66, &c.

Boyle Police Prosecutions, Q. Mr. Tully; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 30 [27] 1269

[*cont.*

IRELAND—cont.

- *Bray Harbour*, Qs. Mr. Field, Mr. Kilbride, Mr. W. Johnston; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 24 [27] 799
- *Cabra Churchyard Outrage*, Q. Mr. MacNeill; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 28 [24] 1403
- *Car Service at Dundalk Railway Station*, Q. Mr. D. Sullivan; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 12 [25] 922
- *Carswell Point Foghorn*, Q. Mr. Young; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 20 [23] 970
- *Castlebar, Malicious Burning at*, Qs. Dr. R. Ambrose, Mr. Flynn; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 10 [23] 16
- *Castleblayney Guardians* (see under sub-heading *Poor Law*)
- *Castle Martyr Licensing Case*, Q. Captain Donelan; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 3 [24] 214
- *Castletown Dispensary Residence*, Q. Mr. D. Sullivan; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 17 [27] 162
- *Cattle*
    - *Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts*, Copy pres. *May* 28 [24] 1504
    - *Outrages*, Qs. Mr. W. Kenny, Mr. Sexton, Mr. W. Redmond, Mr. Dane; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 4 [25] 307; Q. Mr. Kennedy; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 14, 1071; Q. Mr. T. W. Russell; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 14, 1089; Qs. Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 13 [26] 1570
      References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *June* 20 [25] 1553, &c.
    - *Seizures in County Kerry and County Tyrone*, Q. Mr. Mac Neill; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 9 [22] 1593; Q. Mr. Sexton; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 12 [25] 917; Q. Mr. T. W. Russell; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 14, 1074; Qs. Mr. Arnold-Forster, Mr. Kilbride; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 14, 1086; Q. Mr. Sexton; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 14, 1091; Qs. Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 19, 1463
    - *Transit*, Qs. Mr. Field, Mr. Dodd; As. Mr. Bryce *June* 28 [26] 445; Qs. Mr. Field; As. Mr. Bryce *July* 24 [27] 797; *Aug* 6 [28] 134; Q. Mr. Macartney; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 20 [29] 18
    - *Weighbridges*, Qs. Mr. Dane; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 26 [23] 1420; *May* 1 [24] 26; *May* 7, 455; Q. Mr. Macartney; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 19 [25] 1459
      Return ordered *April* 24 [23] 1328
- *Cavan County Revision Sessions*, Q. Mr. Young; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 10 [26] 1304
- *Cavan Land Commission* (see sub-heading *Land Commission*)
- *Channel Fleet* (see under sub-heading *Navy*)
- *Charitable Bequests*
    - *Commissioners*, Qs. Dr. Kenny, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. W. Redmond; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 6 [28] 143
    - *Erasmus Smith's Charity* (see under sub-heading *Education*)
    - *Investments*, Q. Mr. Sexton; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 9 [28] 462
- *Cholera Precautions*, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 19 [27] 368

IRELAND—cont.

- *Church Temporalities Commission—Payments*, Q. Mr. Flynn; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 27 [23] 1584
- *Church Temporalities Fund*, Qs. Mr. W. Kenny, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Bartley; As. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 19 [22] 581; Q. Lord R. Churchill; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 23 [23] 1094; Q. Mr. Knox; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 7 [24] 484; Qs. Mr. Knox; As. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 10, 795; *May* 24, 1187; *May* 28, 1425; Q. and Obs. Earl of Belmore, Earl of Kimberley, Lord Ashbourne, Marquess of Salisbury *June* 4 [25] 274
  Copy pres. *April* 26 [23] 1552
- *Civil Service Retirement*, Q. Mr. Hayden; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 22 [22] 874
- *Clanricarde Estate*
  Qs. Mr. Roche, Mr. J. Dillon; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 30 [27] 1253
    - *Agent as Magistrate*, Qs. Mr. Roche, Mr. Macartney, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Field; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 31 [27] 1388; Q. Mr. Roche; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 31, 1390
    - *Crime in Galway and Police Protection*, Qs. Mr. Sexton, Mr. Knox, Mr. Ross, Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 9 [28] 456
- *Clare Assizes—Mr. Justice O'Brien's Remarks*—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Mar* 22 [22] 886
- *Clare, Crime in*, Qs. Mr. W. Kenny, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Arnold-Forster, Mr. Sexton, Dr. Kenny; As. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 15 [22] 323; Reference to, in Debate on *Supply*, *June* 20 [25] 1553, &c.
- *Clew Bay Disaster*, Q. Dr. R. Ambrose; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 16 [27] 27
- *Clogher Sessions Clerkships*, Qs. Mr. Macartney, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 19 [25] 1459
- *Clogher Valley Tramway*, Q. Mr. M'Gilligan; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Mar* 19 [22] 567; *April* 23 [23] 1100
- *Clonakilty Rate Book—Case of Cornelius Driscoll*, Q. Mr. Hayden; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 24 [23] 1226
- *Clondelara Outrages*, Q. Mr. Dane; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 3 [24] 215
- *College of Science, Dublin*, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. Acland *June* 28 [26] 437
- *Confey Graveyard*, Q. Mr. Kennedy; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 4 [24] 361
- *Congested Districts Board*, Q. Mr. Crean; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 6 [28] 133
    - *Mr. Tottenham's Offer*, Q. Mr. Crean; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 6 [28] 133; Qs. Mr. Tully; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 9 [28] 441; *Aug* 21 [29] 170
- *Constabulary* (see sub-heading *Police*)
- *Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts, 1878 to 1893*, Copy pres. *May* 28 [24] 1504
- *Contempt of Court, Imprisonment for* (see sub-heading *Annaly's, Lord, Estate Dispute*)
- *Co-operative Farming, Loans for*, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 29 [24] 1529

[*cont.*

IRELAND—cont.

Cooscroom Pier, Q. Mr. Kilbride; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 15 [25] 1219

Cork Murder—James Donovan, Q. and Obs. Marquess of Londonderry, Earl of Cork *April* 23 [23] 1070; Qs. Mr. Darling, Mr. Flynn, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Jackson, Mr. W. Johnston, Mr. Carson; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 23, 1106; Qs. Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Dane; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 26, 1447; Q. and Obs. Marquess of Londonderry, Earl Spencer, Lord Monkswell, Earl of Cork, Lord Ashbourne, Earl of Rosebery *April* 27, 1553; Qs. Mr. Smith-Barry, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. W. Johnston; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 3 [24] 207; Qs. and Obs. Mr. Flynn, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Arnold-Forster, Mr. J. Morley *May* 10, 812

Cork Street Preaching Disturbances—Mr. Williams, &c., Qs. Mr. Barton, Captain Donelan, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. M. Austin, Mr. W. O'Brien, Mr. Crean; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 6 [22] 1516; Qs. Mr. Arnold-Forster, Mr. Carson, Mr. M. Healy, Mr. W. Kenny, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Sexton, Mr. T. W. Russell; As. Mr. J. Morley, Mr. Speaker *April* 9, 1588; Q. Mr. Carson; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 17 [23] 628; Qs. Mr. Thomas Healy, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Arnold-Forster, Mr. W. Johnston; As. Mr. J. Morley, Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 26, 1414; Qs. Mr. M. Healy, Mr. W. Johnston, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 3 [24] 211; Q. Mr. M. Healy; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 10, 769; References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *June* 20 [25] 1511, &c.

Cottier Tenements, Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 24 [27] 807

County Cess — Rathlin Island, Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 27 [27] 1124

County Courts—Administration, &c., Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 1 [25] 171; Q. Mr. Kenny; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 3 [26] 791; Q. Mr. Harrington; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 7 [28] 246

County Treasurers' Fee Fund, Account pres. *April* 16 [23] 592

Crime, Decrease in, Qs. Mr. T. Healy, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 16 [23] 458; Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. M. Healy; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 26 [27] 1012

Crimes Act, Repeal of, Q. Colonel Nolan; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 24 [23] 1225

Crop Seeds, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 28 [26] 439

Crops, Condition of, Qs. Mr. Flynn, Mr. A. J. Balfour; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 16 [28] 1246

Crown and Sessional Crown Solicitors, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 20 [22] 678; Q. Mr. Ross; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 1 [25] 164

Cruitt Harbour, Q. Mr. T. D. Sullivan; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 17 [27] 159

Curragh Camp Buildings (see under sub-heading *Army*)

Curtin, Mr. Fergus, Q. Mr. Sexton; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 10 [28] 566

[*cont.*

IRELAND—cont.

Custom House

Dublin, Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 9 [22] 1573

Skibbereen, Q. Mr. E. Barry; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 9 [22] 1572

Cycling Races, Bookmakers at, Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. W. Johnston; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 9 [28] 453

Daly, John, Release of (see under title *Law and Justice and Police*)

Death Duties, Insolvent Estates—Probate Registrars, &c., Qs. Mr. Carson, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Knox; As. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 30 [23] 1680; Qs. Mr. T. W. Russell; As. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 1 [24] 47; *May* 3, 238; Qs. Mr. Carson, Mr. Sexton, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 4, 377; Qs. Mr. Knox; As. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 7, 478; *May* 10. 796; Q. Mr. Dane; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 7 [25] 589; Qs. Mr. Bartley, Mr. T. W. Russell; As. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 21, 1645; Q. Mr. Thomas Healy; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 21, 1646; Q. Mr. Barry; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 22 [26] 18; Q. Mr. Thomas Healy; A. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 24 [27] 806

Deeds

Registry Staff, Q. Mr. H. Plunkett; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 6 [22] 1515; Q. Mr. Clancy; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 16 [23] 455; Q. Mr. Field; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 25 [24] 1269; Q. Mr. Harrington; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 31 [25] 19; Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 10 [26] 1313; Q. Mr. Field; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 19 [27] 369

Registry of Deeds Office Superannuation, Copy ordered and pres. *April* 10 [23] 112

Stamping, Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 16 [23] 462; Qs. Mr. M'Cartan, Mr. Dane; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 19, 831; Qs. Mr. M'Cartan, Mr. W. Johnston, Mr. Sexton, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 24, 1215

De Freyne Estate—Prosecutions, Evictions, &c., Q. Mr. Hayden; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 22 [22] 873; Q. Mr. Hayden; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 10 [24] 782; Q. Mr. Hayden; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 29, 1530; Qs. Mr. Dillon, Mr. Harrington, Mr. W. Redmond, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Caine; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 20 [27] 559; Qs. Mr. Hayden, Mr. Dillon, Mr. Macartney; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 2, 1566

Denunciations (see sub-heading *Land-Grabbing*)

Derry — Irish Society's Estates—Case of Captain Coppin, Q. Mr. Mains; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 26 [26] 228

Dillon's, Lord, Tenants (see sub-heading *Evictions*)

Dillon's, Mr. J., Speech at Ballybrood, Qs. Mr. Ross, Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 24 [24] 1167

Dingle Labourers' Cottages (see under sub-heading *Labourers' Cottages*)

Dingle Pier, Q. Sir T. Esmonde; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 28 [26] 431

[*cont.*

IRELAND—cont.
Discount Corporation of Belfast, Q. Mr. E. M‘Hugh; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 7 [25] 573
Dispensary Committees (see under sub-heading *Poor Law*)
Dog-Muzzling Regulations at Kanturk, Q. Mr. Flynn; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 27 [26] 1576
Donegal Voters' List, Q. Mr. Mac Neill; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 9 [28] 451
Donnellan, Mr.—Mr. J. M‘Inerney's Speech, Qs. Mr. Macartney, Mr. Ross; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 25 [24] 1264
Donovan, Murder of (see sub-heading *Cork Murder*)
Downpatrick Water Supply, Q. Mr. M‘Cartan; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 9 [26] 1195; Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. M‘Cartan; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 20 [27] 558

Drainage
Dublin Main Drainage Scheme (see under sub-heading *Army*)
Loans, Q. Mr. Ross; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 2 [27] 1564
Lough Erne, Q. Mr. Ross; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 2 [27] 475
Suck, Q. Colonel Nolan; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 15 [25] 1212; References to, in Debate on *Supply, Aug* 17 [28] 1416, &c.

Dromod Dispensary Medical Officer (see under sub-heading *Poor Law*)
Drumhariff Bridge, Q. Mr. Hayden; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 6 [26] 1067
Dublin Botanic Gardens, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. Acland *July* 23 [27] 658
Dublin Castle Constabulary Office (see sub-heading *Police*)
Dublin Castle Officials, Age of, Q. Mr. Mandeville; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 31 [25] 29
Dublin Drainage Scheme (see under sub-heading *Army*)
Dublin Law Courts—Press Accommodation, Qs. Mr. W. O'Brien, Mr. Bodkin, Sir A. Rollit, Mr. Dane; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 16 [23] 458
Dublin Union Precepts, Q. Mr. W. Kenny; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 12 [23] 191
Dunquin Landing Place, Q. Sir T. Esmonde; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 3 [24] 210
Dynamite Prisoners (see under title *Law and Justice and Police*)
Dysart Meeting Prohibited, Qs. Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Macartney, Mr. Arnold-Forster; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 14 [25] 1075

Education
Agricultural Class Books, Q. Mr. Ffrench; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 9 [28] 458
Books, Qs. Mr. Bodkin; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 5, 1434; *April* 9 [22] 1578; *May* 3 [24] 207; *July* 26 [27] 1017; *July* 27, 1130
Building Grants, Return pres.; to be printed *Aug* 1 [27] 1555

[*cont.*

IRELAND—cont.
Education—cont.
Carn National School, Q. Mr. Sexton; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 8 [25] 684; Qs. Mr. Sexton, Mr. Mulholland; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 14, 1071; Q. Mr. Sexton; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 10 [28] 567
Christian Brothers' Schools—References to, in Debate on *Supply, Aug* 21 [29] 242, &c.
Clonmeen National Schools, Q. Mr. Flynn; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 12 [23] 195
Commissioners' Report, Q. Mr. Jackson; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 2 [27] 1560
Compulsory Education, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 10 [23] 20; Qs. Mr. Field; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 25 [24] 1270; *May* 29, 1543
Copy pres. of *Annual Report July* 20 [27] 644
Education Act, Qs. Mr. Field; As. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 15 [22] 334; *April* 10 [23] 20; Q. Mr. Hayden; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 16, 461; Qs. Mr. Field; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 17, 619; *May* 1 [24] 21; Qs. Mr. Jackson, Mr. T. W. Russell; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 22 [24] 1004
Education Office, Qs. Mr. W. Kenny; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 8 [25] 681; *June* 12, 906
Endowments—Erasmus Smith's, &c., Q. Mr. Chance; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 23 [27] 661; Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 30, 1247; *Aug* 6 [28] 147; *Aug* 20 [29] 15
Ex-National School Teacher P. M‘Teigne, Q. Mr. Tully; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 25 [26] 126
Fees, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 31 [25] 25
Female Assistant Teachers, Q. Mr. Sexton; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 30 [27] 1258
Glin Industrial School, Q. Mr. Knox; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 19 [25] 1457
Intermediate Education, Copy pres. *May* 2 [24] 200
Intermediate Education Funds, Qs. Mr. W. Johnston, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 15 [25] 1214
Irish Language, Qs. Mr. Field; As. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 19 [22] 583; *July* 19 [27] 358; Q. Captain Donelan; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 9 [28] 451; Qs. Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 23 [29] 363, 364
Killavullen National School—Case of Mr. Fitzgerald, Q. Mr. W. Abraham; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 27 [23] 1585
Killuran Schoolhouse, Q. Mr. W. Redmond; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 3 [28] 19
Leighlinbridge Female National School, Q. Dr. Kenny; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 27 [27] 1140; Qs. Dr. Kenny, Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 30, 1266; Qs. Dr. Kenny, Mr. A. O'Connor; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 10 [28] 565
Motion for Return *July* 30 [27] 1272
Monitors, Qs. Mr. Bodkin; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 5 [22] 1434; *May* 3 [24] 204; *July* 26 [27] 1018
Mountjoy Demesne Bequest, Q. Mr. M. Kenny; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 19 [27] 358

[*cont.*

IRELAND—cont.

Education—cont.

National Education Report, Copy pres. *Aug* 22 [29] 344

Queen's Colleges, Q. Mr. Pinkerton; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 3 [22] 1247; Q. Dr. Kenny; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 20 [23] 987

Rainey's School, Magherafelt, Q. Sir T. Lea; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 16 [23] 464

Result Fees, Q. Captain Donelan; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 9 [28] 453

Roscommon County School Accommodation, Qs. Mr. Combe, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 20 [27] 557

Teachers and the Education Act, 1892, Qs. Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Carson; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 28 [26] 430

Teachers' Examinations, Q. Mr. M'Gilligan; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 10 [24] 764

Teachers' Gratuities, Q. Mr. P. A. M'Hugh; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 17 [23] 623

Teachers' Incomes, Qs. Mr. Knox, Mr. T. W. Russell; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 13 [28] 759

Teachers' Pension Fund, Copy pres. *April* 19 [23] 956

Teachers' Pensions, Q. Mr. Field; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 1 [25] 170; Q. Mr. Hayden; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 26 [27] 1024

Vote for, and Debate, *Aug* 21 [29] 241, &c.

Electoral Division Valuations, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 31 [25] 26

Enniskillen Assizes—"No Bills," Q. Mr. M'Gilligan; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 27 [27] 1130

Enniskillen Royal School Estate, Qs. Mr. M'Gilligan; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 21 [25] 1624; *July* 27 [27] 1128

Erasmus Smith's Endowment (see under sub-heading *Education*)

Evictions

Qs. Mr. Ffrench, Mr. Knox, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Clancy, Colonel Waring; As. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 20 [22] 697

Annaly Estate Dispute (see that sub-heading)

Armagh County, Q. Mr. E. M'Hugh; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 28 [26] 432

Arran Islands (see that sub-heading)

Bodyke—Police Assistance, Q. Mr. W. Redmond; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 31 [27] 1392

Dillon's, Lord, Estate, Qs. Mr. Hayden; As. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 22 [22] 879; *April* 16 [23] 461; Q. Mr. Bodkin; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 23, 1088

Evicted Tenancies, Q. Mr. Fisher; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 31 [27] 1403

Evicted Tenants—Legislation, Q. Mr. Clancy; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 19 [22] 582; Q. Mr. Sexton; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 20, 703

Eviction Notices, Copy pres. *April* 18 [23] 811

Eviction Proceeding—Perjury in Case of James and Walter Tormey, Q. Mr. Dane; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 20 [23] 968

[cont.

IRELAND—cont.

Evictions—cont.

Farms in Tyrone—Police Protection, Q. Mr. Knox; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 7 [25] 583

Gladstone's, Mrs. E., Tenants, Q. Mr. O'Driscoll; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 8 [25] 675

Land-Grabbing Denunciations (see that sub-heading)

Leitrim, South, Qs. Mr. Tully; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 27 [23] 1588; *April* 30, 1685; *May* 3 [24] 221; *July* 6 [26] 1065

Limerick County, Q. Mr. Macartney; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 3 [28] 7

Madden Estate, County Fermanagh, Q. Mr. Dane; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 27 [23] 1580; Q. Mr. Tully; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 4 [25] 290

Massereene Estate, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 2 [27] 1581

Mungret, Qs. Mr. Barton, Mr. Macartney; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 31 [27] 1401

Number of Statistics, Qs. Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Carson; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 16 [27] 18; Q. Mr. T. W. Russell; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 17, 175; Qs. Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. W. Kenny; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 24, 812; Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. J. Chamberlain, Mr. Bartley; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 9 [28] 443; Obs. Earl of Courtown, Lord Monkswell *Aug* 17, 1366

Outdoor Relief, Q. Mr. T. W. Russell; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 16 [27] 19

Police at, Q. Mr. Knox; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 26 [23] 1443

Police—Colts Grazing on Evicted Farms, Qs. Mr. Flynn, Mr. Ross, Mr. Macartney; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 16 [28] 1233

Policemen Holding Evicted Farms, Q. Mr. Ffrench; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 31 [25] 9

Rathcline, County Longford, Qs. Mr. Hayden, Mr. Kilbride, Mr. Dane, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 19 [23] 828

Sligo, County—Case of Mullarkey, Q. Mr. Dillon; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 2 [27] 1576

Westmeath, County, Q. Mr. D. Sullivan; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 20 [27] 546

Wexford, South, Q. Mr. Ffrench; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 15 [25] 1229

Excise Summonses, Q. Mr. A. O'Connor; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 23 [29] 349

Factory Inspectors, Female, Q. Mr. M. Austin; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 4 [25] 310; Q. Mr. Molloy; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 21, 1633; Q. Captain Donelan; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 6 [26] 1069

Fair Rents—Mr. J. Madden's Tenants, Q. Mr. Tully; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 4 [25] 290

Fermoy "Planters," Q. Mr. Macartney; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 10 [24] 801

Financial Relations Commission (see that title)

Firearms, Discharging in the Streets—Prosecutions, Q. Mr. Kennedy; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 23 [29] 366

cont.

IRELAND—cont.

- *Firearms, Possession of—Case of J. Cashin*, Q. Mr. Chance; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 2 [26] 694
- *Fisheries*
  - *Baltimore Industry*, Q. Mr. Gilhooly; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 23 [29] 350
  - *Berehaven Harbour*, Q. Mr. Sexton; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 6 [26] 1063
  - *Dingle Fish-Curing Stations*, Q. Sir T. Esmonde; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 19 [23] 835
  - *Dingle Pier*, Q. Sir T. Esmonde; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 28 [26] 431
  - *Down, County, Sea Fisheries*, Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 23 [23] 1075
  - *Dunquin Landing Place*, Q. Sir T. Esmonde; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 3 [24] 210
  - *Flesk*, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 4 [24] 369; Q. Mr. O'Driscoll; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 8 [25] 676; Q. Mr. M. Healy; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 6 [26] 1070
  - *Limerick Fishery Laws*, Q. Mr. T. W. Russell; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 15 [25] 1218
  - *Limerick Water Bailiff*, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 23 [27] 657
  - *Loss of Life and Boats in Recent Gales*, Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 27 [23] 1587; Qs. Mr. Gilhooly, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Mr. Mundella, Mr. J. Morley *April* 30, 1673
  - *Mackerel, Hake, and Herring*, Return ordered *June* 12 [25] 992
  - *Newcastle Harbour*, Qs. Mr. M'Cartan, Mr. W. Johnston, Colonel Waring; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 25 [26] 123
  - *Piers, Grants for*, Q. Sir T. Esmonde; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 27 [23] 1585
  - *Poaching on the Shannon*, Q. Mr. W. Kenny; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 19 [27] 373
  - *Reports*, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 1 [25] 168
  - *Slaney*, Qs. Mr. Ffrench; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 9 [22] 1571; *April* 23 [23] 1101
  - *South Coast*, Qs. Mr. Dane, Mr. Carson; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 17 [23] 615; Q. Mr. S. Keay; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 24 [24] 1155
  - *South Kerry Improvements*, Q. Mr. Kilbride; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 1 [24] 31
  - *Trawling in Bantry Bay*, Q. Mr. Gilhooly; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 21 [29] 154
- *Franchise Assimilation*, Q. Dr. D. Ambrose; A. Mr J. Morley *July* 24 [27] 801
- *Galway, Extra Police in* (see under sub-heading *Police*)
- *Galway Recorder*, Q. Mr. Foley; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 21 [29] 168
- *German Spirits and "Irish Whisky,"* Qs. Mr. Field, Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 1 [24] 45; Qs. Mr. Field; As. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 10, 797; *May* 29, 1535; *May* 31 [25] 35; Q. Mr. Field; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 3 [26] 796

IRELAND—cont.

- *Gladstone's, Mrs. E., Tenants* (see under sub-heading *Evictions*)
- *Glenlara Murder* (see under *Cork Murder*)
- *Glin Industrial School*, Q. Mr. Knox; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 19 [25] 1457
- *Godley Estate* (see under sub-heading *Land Purchase*)
- *Good Templars, Attack on*, Q. Mr. W. Johnston; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 15 [25] 1216
- *Gort Hurling Club Band*, Q. Mr. W. Abraham; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 6 [28] 137
- *Government Contracts*
  - *Killaloe Slates* (see under sub-heading *Army—Curragh Buildings*)
  - *Lights Board* (see under sub-heading *Lights Board*)
  - *Police Clothing*, Q. Mr. M. Healy; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 15 [22] 340
  - *Post Office Clothing*, Qs. Mr. M. Healy; As. Mr. A. Morley *Mar* 15 [22] 339; *April* 5, 1441
  - *Printing Contracts in Westmeath*, Qs. Mr. D. Sullivan; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 31 [25] 9; *Aug* 9 [28] 436
  - *Trade Union Wages*, Q. Mr. Field; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 7 [28] 245
- *Green Street Court House, Dublin*—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 17 [28] 1412, &c.
- *Gun Licences*
  - *Bracken, Mr., Case of*, Q. Colonel Nolan; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 13 [26] 1566; Q. Mr. J. Redmond; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 20 [27] 556
  - *Lee, Mr. J., Case of*, Q. Mr. P. J. O'Brien; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 19 [22] 568
  - *Police*, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 3 [28] 25
  - *Staunton, J. T.*, Q. Captain Donelan; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 13 [28] 774
- *Gweebarra River Bridge*, Q. and Obs. Earl of Mayo, Lord Monkswell *June* 4 [25] 281
- *Gweedore—Attack on a Process-Server and Police*, Qs. Mr. Ross, Mr. Dane; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 11 [25] 801
- *Gweedore District Disturbances*, Qs. Mr. Barton, Mr. T. D. Sullivan, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Bartley; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 10 [23] 18
- *Harbours*
  - *Berehaven*, Q. Mr. Sexton; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 6 [26] 1063; Q. Mr. Gilhooly; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 23 [29] 351
  - *Bray*, Qs. Mr. Field, Mr. Kilbride, Mr. W. Johnston; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 24 [27] 799
  - *Cruitt*, Q. Mr. T. D. Sullivan; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 17 [27] 159
  - *Kilrush*, Q. Mr. Maguire; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 5 [25] 412
  - *Kinsale*, Qs. Captain Donelan, Mr. Flynn; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 17 [27] 163
  - *Newcastle*, Qs. Mr. M'Cartan, Mr. W. Johnston, Colonel Waring; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 25 [26] 123

[*cont.*

IRELAND—cont.
Harbours—cont.
Sligo Commissioners—Pilotage, Copy pres. *May* 10 [24] 912
Ventry Works, Q. Sir T. Esmonde ; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 26 [23] 1433
Wicklow—References to, in Debate on *Supply, July* 30 [27] 1287

Haulbowline Dockyard (see under sub-heading *Navy*)
High Court of Justice — Civil Service Retirement, Q. Mr. Hayden ; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 22 [22] 874
High Sheriffs, Qs. Mr. Carson, Mr. Sexton ; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 28 [26] 429 ; Qs. Mr. Mains, Mr. Carson ; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 7 [28] 247 ; Qs. Mr. Mains, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Mac Neill, Mr. Carson ; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 9 471
Home Rule — References to, in reply to *Queen's Speech, Mar* 12 [22] 71
Horse-Breeding in Kerry, Q. Mr. Kilbride ; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 7 [24] 460
Horse-Stabbing in Tipperary, Q. Mr. Dane ; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 8 [25] 681
Howth and Clontarf, Sanitary Condition of, Motion for Papers (Earl of Howth) *April* 16 [23] 1405
Obs. Lord Howth, Lord Monkswell *April* 24 [23] 1211
Humphrey's, Father, and the Evicted Tenants Bill, Q. Mr. Dane ; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 10 [24] 802
Income Tax and Labourers' Cottages, Qs. Mr. E. Barry, Mr. Sexton ; As. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 1 [24] 46 ; Q. Mr. E. Barry ; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 24, 1188
Industrial Schools—References to, in Debate on *Supply, Aug* 20 [29] 71, &c.
Infant Insurance, Qs. Mr. M'Cartan, Mr. W. Johnston ; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 27 [27] 1123
Inland Revenue Examination, Q. Mr. Clancy ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 16 [23] 456
Inland Revenue Officials and the Estate Duty (see sub-heading *Death Duties*)
Insanity (see sub-heading *Lunatics*)
Intimidation (see sub-heading *Land Grabbing Denunciations*)
Irish Language (see under sub-headings *Education* and *Magistracy*)
Joint-Rated Occupiers, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy ; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 3 [28] 24
Judicial Rents, Copies pres. *Mar* 12 [22] 126 ; *July* 2 [26] 772
Kerry—Sunken Rocks, Q. Sir T. Esmonde ; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 13 [23] 327
Kilfenora—National League Meeting, Q. Mr. W. Redmond ; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 29 [24] 1526
Killaloe Slates (see under sub-heading *Army —Curragh Buildings*)
Killiney Bay—Removal of Sand from Foreshore, Q. Dr. Kenny ; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 3 [26] 794
Killucan Medical Officer, Q. Captain Donelan ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 9 [28] 451

[*cont.*

IRELAND—cont.
Killybegs Pier (see under sub-heading *Piers*)
Kilpedder Petty Sessions Court, Qs. Mr. Kilbride ; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 26 [23] 1431 ; *April* 30, 1670
Kilrush Gas Company, Q. Mr. Maguire ; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 20 [22] 679
Kilrush Harbour, Q. Mr. Maguire ; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 5 [25] 412
Kingstown Pier—Discharged Labourers, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 4 [24] 370
Kinsale Harbour Revenues, Qs. Captain Donelan, Mr. Flynn ; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 17 [27] 163
Kirwan, Release of, Q. Mr. Hopwood ; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 2 [26] 676
Kittson Estate, Listowel—Rents, Q. Mr. Sexton ; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 4 [25] 295
"*Knight of Kerry*" *and Poor Rates*, Qs. Mr. Kilbride, Mr. Bodkin ; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 26 [23] 1432 ; Q. Mr. Kilbride ; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 7 [24] 483

Labourers' Acts
Q. Mr. Clancy ; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 20 [22] 693 ; Qs. Mr. Young, Mr. Knox ; As. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 22, 872
Expenses under, Q. Mr. E. Barry ; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 30 [23] 1662
Loan to Listowel, Q. Mr. Sexton ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 6 [28] 137
Procedure under, Q. Mr. Power ; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 24 [24] 1163

Labourers' Cottages
Augheygalt, Q. Mr. A. O'Connor ; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 8 [25] 686
Ballina, Q. Mr. P. J. O'Brien ; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 6 [28] 140
Ballymena, Q. Colonel Waring ; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 3 [26] 783
Birr, Q. Mr. Molloy ; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 19 [25] 1474
Carlow, Q. Mr. J. Hammond ; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 24 [23] 1220
Celbridge, Qs. Mr. Clancy ; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 13 [23] 327 ; *June* 19 [25] 1466
Clonakilty, Qs. Mr. E. Barry, Mr. Sexton ; As. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 17 [23] 633
Coleraine, Q. Mr. M'Gilligan ; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 3 [28] 11
Cootehill, Qs. Mr. Young ; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 13 [23] 325 ; *April* 23, 1083 ; *June* 25 [26] 120
Dingle, Q. Sir T. Esmonde ; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 17 [23] 617
Dundalk, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy ; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 10 [23] 5
Dungannon, Q. Mr. W. O'Brien ; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 27 [27] 1122
Dunshaughlin, Q. Mr. Field ; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 19 [23] 827 ; Q. Mr. Jordan ; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 3 [24] 224 ; Q. Mr. Clancy ; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 19 [25] 1465 ; Q. Mr. Hayden ; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 26 [27] 1024
Edenderry, Qs. Mr. Kennedy ; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 8 [24] 585 ; *May* 10, 771 ; *Aug* 14 [28] 981 ; *Aug* 16, 1226
Emly, Q. Mr. Mandeville ; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 9 [28] 453

[*cont.*

- *IRELAND*—cont.
  - *Labourers' Cottages*—cont.
    - *Income Tax*, Qs. Mr. E. Barry, Mr. Sexton; As. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 1 [24] 46; Q. Mr. E. Barry; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 24, 1188
    - *Killough*, Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 23 [27] 663
    - *Kilmacthomas*, Q. Mr. Power; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 3 [24] 230; Q. Mr. Webb; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 18 [25] 1345
    - *Leixlip*, Q. Mr. Kennedy; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 2 [22] 1099
    - *Nenagh*, Q. Mr. P. J. O'Brien; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 10 [24] 784
    - *Newcastle West*, Qs. Mr. M. Austin; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 10 [23] 24; *July* 2 [26] 693
    - *Occupation of by Persons not Labourers*, Q. Mr. Ross; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 4 [25] 309
    - *Roscrea*, Q. Mr. Crean; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 27 [23] 1577
    - *Skibbereen*, Q. Mr. W. Kenny; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 8 [25] 680
    - *Sligo*, Qs. Mr. P. A. M'Hugh; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 13 [23] 321; *April* 24, 1219
    - *Strabane*, Qs. Mr. A. O'Connor, Mr. Kilbride; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 12 [23] 201; Qs. Mr. A. O'Connor; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 3 [24] 209; *June* 4 [25] 297, 298; *Aug* 6 [28] 127
    - *Stranorlar*, Qs. Mr. A. O'Connor, Mr. Macartney; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 30 [23] 1663; Q. Mr. A. O'Connor; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 28 [26] 447
    - *Tipperary*, Q. Mr. Hogan; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 3 [24] 201
    - *Trim*, Q. Mr. Kennedy; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 20 [29] 23
    - *Tullamore*, Q. Mr. Bodkin; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 10 [24] 767
    - *Youghal*, Qs. Captain Donelan, Mr. Flynn; As. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 15 [22] 328
  - *Lamp Accident in Belfast*, Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 5 [25] 410
  - *Land Acts*
    - *Tenants' Improvements—Case of Mr. John Robb, &c.*, Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 5 [22] 1433
    - *Town Parks*, Qs. Mr. M'Cartan, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 22 [22] 877; Qs. Mr. M'Cartan, Mr. Knox; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 5, 1432
  - *Land Acts—Select Committee*
    - Motion for (Mr. J. Morley) *April* 10 [23] 108; *April* 12, 305; *April* 13, 397; Agreed to *April* 16, 589; Appointment of Com. *April* 24, 1328
    - Member added to *May* 23 [24] 1131
    - Report pres. *Aug* 20 [29] 148
    - Copy of Report for the Lords *Aug* 21 [29] 149
    - Q. Mr. T. W. Russell; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 13 [22] 139; Qs. Mr. Knox, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Clancy, Colonel Waring; As. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 20, 698; Q. Mr. Carson; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 22, 870; Q. Mr. T. W. Russell; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 2, 1114;

[*cont.*

- *IRELAND*—cont.
  - *Land Acts—Select Committee*—cont.
    - Qs. Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Carson, Mr. A. J. Balfour, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Barton; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 5, 1454; Q. Mr. T. W. Russell; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 9, 1595; Obs. Mr. J. Morley, Sir E. Harland, Mr. T. M. Healy *April* 12 [23] 305; Obs. Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. J. Morley, Mr. A. J. Balfour, Mr. Sexton, Sir E. Harland *April* 12, 307; Obs. Mr. Smith-Barry, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Speaker, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Sexton, Mr. J. Morley, Mr. W. Johnston *April* 13, 397; Q. Mr. T. W. Russell; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 20, 990
    - *Lord Justice Fitzgibbon*, Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. T. W. Russell; As. Mr. J. Morley, Mr. Speaker *May* 23 [24] 1131
    - *Publication of Reports in "The Times,"* Qs. Mr. Sexton, Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Mr. Speaker, Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 16 [28] 1257; Obs. Mr. Macartney, Mr. Sexton *Aug* 20 [29] 28
  - *Land Agents as Magistrates* (see sub-heading *Magistracy*)
  - *Land Agents as Petty Sessions Clerks*, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 28 [26] 435
  - *Land Commission*
    - *Cavan—Mr. Bomford, &c.*, Qs. Mr. Knox; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 12 [23] 185, 221; *April* 19, 861; *April* 26, 1416; *May* 10 [24] 780; Qs. Mr. Knox, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Dane; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 24, 1153
    - *Church Temporalities Fund* (see that sub-heading)
    - *Copy pres. May* 21 [24] 995; Paper to be printed *June* 8 [25] 760
    - *Judicial Rents*, Copies pres. *Mar* 12 [22] 126; *July* 2 [26] 772
    - *Land Sub-Commissioner Mr. Jeffcot*, Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 4 [25] 289; Qs. Mr. M'Cartan, Mr. Sexton, Mr. T. W. Russell; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 7, 579
    - *Lanesborough Estate—Case of T. Boland, &c.*, Q. Mr. Knox; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 26 [23] 1418
    - *Proceedings*, Copies pres. *Mar* 19 [22] 676; *June* 25 [26] 204; *July* 9, 1280
    - *Tithe Rent-Charge*, Qs. Mr. Gibney, Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 30 [23] 1671
  - *Land-Grabbing Denunciations*
    - Qs. Mr. Arnold-Forster, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. W. Johnston, Mr. Macartney; As. Mr. J. Morley, Mr. Speaker *May* 1 [24] 22; Q. Mr. Dane; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 10, 759; Qs. Mr. Macartney, Mr. Dane; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 10, 801; Qs. Mr. Macartney, Mr. Ross; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 25, 1264
    - *Alleged Suppression of Meeting near Nenagh*, Q. Mr P. J. O'Brien; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 19 [27] 385
    - *Donnellan, Mr.*, Qs. Mr. Macartney, Mr. Ross; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 25 [24] 1264

[*cont.*

- *IRELAND*—cont.
  - *Land-Grabbing Denunciations*—cont.
    - *Father Dunphy's Sermon*, Q. Mr. Macartney; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 7 [24] 466
    - *Gillespie, Robert*, Q. Colonel Waring; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 12 [25] 921
    - *Kilfenora Meeting*, Q. Mr. W. Redmond; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 29 [24] 1526
    - *Limerick*, Q. Mr. Carson; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 23 [27] 670
    - *Lisburn*, Q. Mr. W. Kenny; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 5 [22] 1451
    - *Monaghan*, Q. Mr. Macartney; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 9 [26] 1189
    - *National Federation*, Qs. Mr. Ross, Mr. Macartney, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Arnold-Forster, Mr. W. Johnston; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 7 [25] 553; Qs. Mr. Macartney; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 7, 552; *June* 12, 904
    - *Newcastle West Board of Guardians*, Q. Mr. Arnold-Forster; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 14 [25] 1087
    - *O'Callaghan Mills—Meeting Prohibited*, Q. Colonel Nolan; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 13 [26] 1565
    - *Roscommon County*, Qs. Mr. W. Kenny, Mr. Bodkin; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 13 [28] 769; References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 20 [29] 67, &c.
    - *Thomas, Mr., of Martinstown, &c.*, Qs. and Obs. Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. T. Healy, Mr. J. Morley, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Macartney *June* 11 [25] 794
    - (References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *June* 20 [25] 1551, &c.)
  - *Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887—Eviction Notices*, Copy pres. *April* 18 [23] 811
  - *Land Purchase*
    - *Enniskillen Royal School Estate*, Qs. Mr. M'Gilligan; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 21 [25] 1624; *July* 27 [27] 1128
    - *Godley Estate*, Qs. Mr. Tully; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 7 [25] 552; *June* 26 [26] 226; *July* 13, 1559; *July* 26 [27] 1004; *Aug* 2, 1559
    - *Kerry County—Case of Mr. Allman*, Q. Mr. Sexton; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 28 [26] 433
    - *Kilkenny County*, Q. Mr. M'Dermott; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 15 [22] 313
    - *Ponsonby Estate*, Qs. Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Brodrick; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 16 [27] 17
    - *Wexford County—Case of Mr. T. Whelan*, Qs. Mr. Power, Mr. Kilbride; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 15 [25] 1216; Q. Mr. Power; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 21, 1626
  - *Landed Estates, Sale of*, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 9 [28] 445
  - *Lanesborough Estate—Case of T. Boland, &c.*, Q. Mr. Knox; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 26 [23] 1418
  - *Language, Irish* (see under sub-headings *Education* and *Magistracy*)
  - *Law, Administration of*, Res., in Debate in reply to *Queen's Speech*, *Mar* 13 [22] 241
  - *Law Reports—House of Commons Library*, Qs. Mr. M'Cartan, Mr. Dane; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 29 [23] 1435

[*cont.*

- *IRELAND*—cont.
  - *Lecture Theatre of the Royal Dublin Society*, Q. Mr. W. Kenny; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 4 [24] 376
  - *Letterbreen Petty Sessions Court*, Q. Mr. M'Gilligan; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 2 [26] 680
  - *Lewis Estate—Extra Police* (see under sub-heading *Police—Galway*)
  - *Licensed Restaurant Facilities in Dublin*, Qs. Colonel Nolan, Mr. T. W. Russell; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 28 [26] 432; Qs. Dr. Kenny, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Harrington; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 6 [28] 139
  - *Licensing Questions and Magistrates* (see sub-heading *Magistracy*)
  - *Life Sentences*, Q. Mr. Hopwood; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 2 [26] 676
  - *Lights Board*, Qs. Mr. Field; As. Mr. Mundella *April* 17 [23] 619
    - *Briggs Reef Buoy*, Qs. Colonel Waring, Mr. G. Bowles, Mr. Field, Mr. Wolff, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. Mundella, Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 19 [22] 570; Qs. Colonel Waring, Mr. Wolff, Mr. Clancy, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Field; As. Mr. Mundella *April* 13 [23] 323
    - *Carswell Point Foghorn*, Q. Mr. Young; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 20 [23] 970
    - *Contracts and Trades Union Wages*, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 3 [26] 788; Qs. Mr. Field, Mr. Harrington; As. Mr. Bryce *July* 19 [27] 370; Qs. Mr. Field; As. Mr. J. Morley, Mr. Bryce *July* 31, 1403; Qs. Mr. Field, Mr. Flynn; As. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 2, 1583
    - *Grants in Aid for Lighthouses*, Qs. Mr. Wolff, Mr. Field; As. Mr. Mundella *April* 19 [23] 840
    - *Lighthouse Illuminants*, Q. Mr. T. W. Russell; A. Mr. Burt *May* 24 [24] 1190
    - *River Shannon Lighting*, Q. Mr. O'Keeffe; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 5 [26] 949
  - *Limerick*
    - *Assizes*, Qs. Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 10 [26] 1302
    - *Children at the Pasteur Institute*, Q. Mr. M. Austin; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 4 [25] 293
    - *Emergency Man, Alleged Shooting by*, Qs. Mr. M. Austin, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Darling; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 13 [23] 329
    - *Land-Grabbing Denunciations*, Q. Mr. Carson; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 23 [27] 670
    - *Lord Lieutenancy*, Q. Mr. O'Keeffe; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 30 [27] 1264
  - *Lisburn Registrar of Deaths*, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 20 [22] 679
  - *Lismore—Denouncing a Person for Taking an Evicted Farm*, Q. Mr. W. Kenny; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 5 [22] 1451
  - *Loans, Board of Public Works* (see sub-heading *Board of Public Works*)
  - *Local Government Board*, Copy pres. *April* 12 [23] 307
  - *Local Government Board Inspector — Mr. Macfarlane*, Q. Mr. W. Kenny; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 19 [27] 374

[*cont.*

IRELAND—cont.
- *Local Government Board Officials, Religion of*, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 9 [28] 443
- *Lough Erne Drainage*, Q. Mr. Ross; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 9 [28] 475
- *Lough Key Floods*, Qs. Mr. Tully; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 26 [27] 1005; *Aug* 9 [28] 440
- *Lough Ryan, Shipping Casualty in*, Q. Mr. Sexton; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 19 [23] 833
- *Luggacurren Estate—Extra Police in Queen's County*, Qs. Mr. Kilbride, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Bodkin; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 1 [24] 30

- *Lunatics and Lunatic Asylums*
  - *Armagh—Loan*, Q. Mr. Barton; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 28 [24] 1400
  - *Asylum Boards — Chairmen's Casting Votes*, Q. Mr. J. Hammond; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 29 [24] 1532
  - *Belfast and Antrim Board of Governors*, Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 22 [22] 878
  - *Belfast Workhouse*, Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 22 [22] 876; Qs. Mr. M'Cartan, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Knox; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 5, 1430; Qs. Mr. M'Cartan, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 20 [23] 966; Qs. Mr. Sexton, Mr. T. W. Russell; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 30, 1667; Qs. Mr. M'Cartan, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 7 [24] 461; Qs. Mr. M'Cartan, Dr. Kenny, Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 10, 802; Qs. Mr. M'Cartan; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 28, 1416; *June* 4 [25] 298; Q. Mr. Sexton; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 30 [27] 1258
  - *Carlow Asylum*, Qs. Mr. J. Hammond, Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 19 [27] 365; Q. Mr. Barton; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 31, 1401
  - *Derry*, Q. Mr. Mains; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 21 [25] 1625
  - *Increase of Insanity*, Q. Sir T. Lea; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 5 [22] 1456; Q. Dr. Kenny; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 10 [24] 775; Q. Mr. J. Redmond; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 24, 1179; Q. Mr. Stanley Leighton; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 28 [26] 455
  - *Inspector's Report*, Q. Mr. Harrington; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 19 [27] 378; Q. Dr. Kenny; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 26, 1006
  - *Larne Workhouse*, Qs. Mr. M'Cartan; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 10 [24] 779; *May* 29, 1545
  - *Letterkenny*, Q. Mr. A. O'Connor; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 2 [22] 1113
  - *Londonderry Asylum*, Qs. Mr. Pinkerton, Sir T. Lea; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 27 [27] 1118; Q. Sir T. Lea; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 30, 1270
  - *Monaghan—Tea Contracts*, Q. Mr. Young; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 19 [22] 560
  - *Police*, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 20 [27] 557
  - *Portrane*, Q. Mr. Hayden; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 20 [23] 973
  - *Removal of Lunatics—Case of James Conniffe*, Q. Mr. D. Sullivan; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 26 [23] 1410

[*cont.*

IRELAND—cont.
- *Lunatics and Lunatic Asylums*—cont.
  - *Richmond Asylum, Dublin*, Qs. Mr. W. Kenny, Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 12 [23] 196; Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 13, 342; Q. Dr. Kenny; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 20, 990; Qs. Mr. Field, Dr. Kenny, Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 10 [24] 778
  - *Tea—Reports of the Resident Medical Superintendents*, Qs. Mr. M'Cartan, Mr. T. W. Russell; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 7 [24] 460
  - *Waterford*, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 19 [22] 565

- *Lurgan Party Riots*, Q. Mr. Macartney; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 20 [29] 20 (Refer also under sub-heading *Orange Disturbances*)
- *Macfarlane, Mr. H. J., Case of*, Q. Mr. W. Kenny; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 19 [27] 374
- *M'Cartan, Rev. W., Attack on*, Qs. Mr. M'Cartan, Mr. W. Johnston, Mr. Dillon, Colonel Waring; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 15 [25] 1226; Qs. Mr. M'Cartan; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 22 [26] 14; *June* 25, 130; *July* 10, 1294
- *M'Inerney, Mr.—Denouncing Mr. Donnellan*, Qs. Mr. Macartney, Mr. Ross; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 25 [24] 1264
- *M'Nally, Mr., Alleged Attack on*, Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 22 [26] 14
- *Madden Estate*, Q. Mr. Dane; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 27 [23] 1580; Q. Mr. Tully; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 4 [25] 290; Q. Mr Field; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 28 [26] 435

- *Magistracy*
  - *Antrim Catholic Magistrates*, Q. Mr. Knox; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 19 [23] 862
  - *Butterly, Mr.*, Q. Mr. Macartney; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 1 [24] 25
  - *Clare—Mr. Wakely*, Q. Mr. W. Redmond; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 31 [27] 1393
  - *Clogher*, Qs. Mr. Macartney, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 19 [25] 1459; Q. Mr. T. W. Russell; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 25 [26] 126; Qs. Mr. Sexton, Mr. T. W. Russell; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 25, 131
  - *Deeny, Mr.—Licence Transfer*, Q. Mr. Macartney; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 19 [23] 832; Qs. Mr. Butcher, Mr. Mains, Mr. Carson; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 23, 1104
  - *Dillon, Dr.*, Q. Mr. Maguire; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 16 [28] 1255
  - *Fermanagh—Catholic Magistrates*, Qs. Mr. M'Gilligan; As. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 16 [22] 438; *May* 3 [24] 216; *Aug* 7 [28] 244
  - *Grant, Mr. James*, Q. Mr. W. Johnston; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 30 [23] 1666
  - *Gun Licences* (see that sub-heading)
  - *Hegarty, Mr.—Licence Transfer*, Qs. Dr. Tanner, Mr. W. Johnston, Mr. T. W. Russell; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 19 [23] 848
  - *Irish-Speaking Magistrates*, Qs. Mr. Field; As. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 19 [22] 565; *April* 10 [23] 27

[*cont.*

IRELAND—cont.

Magistracy—cont.

Kerry—Catholic Magistrates, Q. Mr. D. Sullivan; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 16 [28] 1227

Land Agents as Magistrates, Qs. Mr. Roche, Mr. Macartney, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Field; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 31 [27] 1388; Q. Mr. Roche; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 31, 1390; Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 2, 1562

Lecarrow—Roman Catholic Magistrates, Q. Dr. Commins; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 26 [26] 239

Leitrim—Roman Catholic Magistrates, Qs. Mr. Tully; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 29 [24] 1544; *July* 17 [27] 169

M'Elligatt, Mr.—Licence Transfer, Q. Mr. Macartney; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 1 [24] 25

O'Callaghan, Colonel, Q. Mr. W. Redmond; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 6 [28] 128

O'Connor, Mr. Weld, Q. Mr. Gibney; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 16 [22] 445; Q. Mr. Dane; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 19 [23] 848

O'Kelly, Mr. E.—Licence Transfer, Qs. Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Macartney; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 10 [24] 758; Q. Mr. T. W. Russell; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 22, 998

Portumna—Residences of Resident Magistrates, Qs. Mr. Sexton, Mr. T. W. Russell; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 9 [28] 457

Publicans as Magistrates, Qs. Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. J. O'Connor; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 9 [22] 1585; Qs. Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. M'Cartan; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 7 [25] 548; Qs. Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. M'Cartan, Mr. Dane, Mr. Sexton, Mr. W. Johnston; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 8, 673

Relatives on Magisterial Benches, Q. Mr. W. Abraham; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 23 [29] 365

Resident Magistrates—Limiting Time of Residence, Q. Dr. R. Ambrose; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 24 [24] 1160

Tipperary County, Q. Mr. Mandeville; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 28 [24] 1418

Tyrone County—Holders of Retail Licences, Q. Mr. Sexton; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 25 [26] 131

Wicklow—Catholic Magistrates, Qs. Mr. J. O'Connor; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 16 [28] 1240; *Aug* 20 [29] 17

Malicious Burnings

Castlebar, Qs. Dr. R. Ambrose, Mr. Flynn; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 10 [23] 16

Clare County, Q. Mr. Sexton; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 19 [23] 835,

Fermanagh, Q. Mr. M'Gilligan; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 7 [28] 243

Galway, Qs. Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Bodkin; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 27 [27] 1126

Mayo County, New Road, Q. Mr. Clancy; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 17 [28] 1383

Malicious Injury Claims in Kerry, Q. Mr. Sexton; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 2 [26] 691

Manorhamilton Veterinary Inspector, Q. Mr. P. A. M'Hugh; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 17 [23] 622

IRELAND—cont.

Manuscripts, Grants for Publication of, Q. Mr. Field; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Mar* 19 [22] 582

Markets and Fairs (Cattle Weighing) Act (refer to sub-heading *Cattle Weighbridges*)

Meath Polling Lists, Q. and Obs. Mr. Jordan, Mr. J. Morley, Mr. T. M. Healy *July* 30 [27] 1243; Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 3 [28] 25; *Aug* 7, 241; Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Dodd; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 13, 775; Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 16, 1234; *Aug* 17, 1391

Medical Relief (see under sub-heading *Poor Law*)

Medical Witnesses at Assizes, Remuneration of, Q. Mr. O'Keeffe; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 25 [26] 129

Meelick Lock, Q. Colonel Nolan; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 15 [25] 1211

Meetings, Public—Land-Grabbing Denunciations (see that sub-heading)

Mew Island Fog Signal, Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 12 [23] 210

Migration Company, Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 13 [28] 775; *Aug* 16, 1243; Qs. Mr. D. Sullivan, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 23 [29] 363

Model Farms, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 30 [27] 1250

Mohill Loan Fund Society, Q. Mr. Tully; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 7 [24] 464

Monaghan—County Barony Constables, Defalcations of, Q. Mr. Diamond; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 30 [23] 1672

Moonlighting Outrages, Q. Mr. Dane; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 26 [23] 1444

Naas and Newbridge Police Prosecutions, Q. Mr. Kennedy; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 31 [27] 1385

Naas Local Government Inquiry, Q. Mr. Ross; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 1 [25] 163

National Federation and Evicted Farms, Q. and Obs. Earl of Courtown, Lord Monkswell *Aug* 17 [28] 1366

National Federation and Land-Grabbing (see under sub-heading *Land-Grabbing*)

National Gallery, Dublin, Q. Dr. Kenny; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 3 [26] 793; Q. Dr. Kenny; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 2 [27] 1577

Copy pres. Aug 16 [28] 1355

Vote for, and Debate on *Aug* 20 [29] 74, &c.

Navan Revision Court, Q. Mr. Gibney; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 20 [22] 681

Navy

Channel Fleet—Visit to Ireland, Q. Mr. W. Johnston; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 4 [25] 306; Q. Mr. Ross; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 5, 421; Q. Colonel Nolan; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 7, 557; Qs. Mr. Ross, Mr. Mains; As. Mr. E. Robertson *Aug* 3 [28] 29; Qs. Mr. Ross, Captain Donelan; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Aug* 16, 1236

IRELAND—cont.

Navy—cont.

Haulbowline Dockyard, Q. Captain Donelan; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 15 [22] 316; Q. Mr. Field; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 30, 1005; Qs. Captain Donelan; As. Mr. E. Robertson *May* 3 [24] 212; *May* 29, 1525; Qs. Captain Donelan, Mr. M. Austin; As. Mr. E. Robertson *June* 7 [25] 558; Q. Captain Donelan; A. Mr. E. Robertson *June* 12, 923

Recruiting, Qs. Captain Donelan, Mr. W. Johnston, Mr. Mains; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 26 [26] 231

Training Ships, Qs. Mr. Gilhooly, Dr. Fox; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 20 [22] 685; Q. Captain Donelan; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 22 [24] 1002; Qs. Mr. Ross, Captain Donelan; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 25, 1264; *June* 5 [25] 420; *Aug* 16 [28] 1236; Q. Mr. Gilhooly; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Aug* 23 [26] 351

Neagh Meeting, Alleged Suppression of, Q. Mr. P. J. O'Brien; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 19 [27] 385

Nenagh Waterworks Loan, Q. Mr. P. J. O'Brien; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 30 [23] 1678

Newcastle Harbour, Qs. Mr. M'Cartan, Mr. W. Johnston, Colonel Waring; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 25 [26] 123

Newcastle West Petty Sessions Clerk, Qs. Mr. M. Austin; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 31 [25] 13; *June* 7, 584

O'Callaghan, Colonel, Q. Mr. Macartney; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 30 [27] 1257; Qs. Mr. W. Redmond; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 6 [28] 128; Q. Mr. Macartney; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 17, 1381; References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 20 [29] 66, &c.

O'Callaghan's Mills—Meeting Prohibited, Q. Colonel Nolan; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 13 [26] 1565

Occupying Tenants—Death Duties, Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 16 [27] 30

O'Hare, Mr.—Conviction for Drunkenness, Qs. Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 4 [25] 305

O'Leary, Release of, Q. Mr. Arnold-Forster; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 31 [25] 7

Orange Disturbances

Antrim County, Qs. Mr. M'Cartan, Mr. Ross, Mr. Sexton, Mr. W. Johnston; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 12 [23] 197; Qs. Mr. M'Cartan, Mr. Dane, Mr. Bodkin, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 19, 849; Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 10 [24] 779

Lurgan—Attack on Catholics, Qs. Mr. M'Cartan, Mr. W. Johnston, Mr. Dillon, Mr. Sexton, Colonel Waring; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 15 [25] 1226; Qs. Mr. M'Cartan; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 22 [26] 14; *June* 25, 130; *July* 10, 1294

Young, Rev. A. B. R., Q. Mr. O'Driscoll; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 23 [27] 669

[*cont.*

IRELAND—cont.

Ordnance Survey Department, Qs. Mr. Field; As. Mr. Gardner *June* 29 [26] 563; *Aug* 16 [28] 1256

Parliamentary Revision Sessions in County Cavan, Q. Mr. Young; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 10 [26] 1304

Parliamentary Voters—Return, Qs. Mr. Mowbray, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; As. Mr. G. Russell *April* 30 [23] 1688

Pembroke Township, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 3 [28] 10

Petty Sessions Clerks as Land Agents—Mr. Turner, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 28 [26] 435

Phœnix Park

Bookmakers at Cycling Races, Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. W. Johnston; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 9 [28] 453

Cricket, Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Dane, As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 28 [24] 1395; Q. Mr. M. Healy; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 5 [25] 424

Grazings, Q. Mr. Field; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 23 [23] 1102

Polo, Qs. Mr. M. Healy, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Macartney, Mr. A. C. Morton; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 5 [25] 422

Regulations, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 24 [27] 809

Vehicular Traffic, Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Sexton; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Mar* 19 [22] 575; Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 10 [23] 6; Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. W. Johnston; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 7 [24] 476

References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 17 [28] 1409, &c.

Piers

Cooscroom, Q. Mr. Kilbride; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 15 [25] 1219

Dingle, Q. Sir T. Esmonde; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 28 [26] 431

Grants, Q. Sir T. Esmonde; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 27 [23] 1585

Killybegs, Qs. Mr. Dane, Mr. Mac Neill; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 17 [23] 614; Q. Mr. Dane; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 28 [24] 1401; Qs. Sir M. Stewart, Mr. Dane; As. Mr. A. Morley *May* 24, 1184; Qs. Mr. Dane, Mr. Mac Neill; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 7 [28] 240

Pigeon House Fort (see under sub-heading *Army—Dublin Main Drainage Scheme*)

Poachers Shot by Gamekeepers at Derry, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 16 [28] 1230

Police

Agricultural Statistics Enumerators, Q. Mr. M. Healy; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 5 [25] 425

Assistance to a "Planter," Q. Dr. D. Ambrose; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 13 [28] 757

Athy Prosecutions, Q. Mr. Minch; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 26 [27] 1003

Barrack Regulations—Peaceable Districts, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 17 [28] 1382

[*cont.*

IRELAND—cont.

Police—cont.

Belfast Nationalists, Q. Mr. Sexton; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 12 [25] 915

Bodyke Evictions, Q. Mr. W. Redmond; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 31 [27] 1392

Boyle Prosecutions, Q. Mr. Tully; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 30 [27] 1269

Catholics, Qs. Mr. D. Sullivan, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 20 [29] 13; Qs. Mr. Kennedy; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 23, 349; *Aug* 24, 415

Cavan County Inspector, Q. Mr. Knox; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 23 [29] 384

Clashmore Barracks, Q. Captain Donelan; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 13 [28] 773

Clothing Contracts, Q. Mr. M. Healy; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 15 [22] 340

Cork County Charges, Q. Captain Donelan; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 14 [25] 1077

Cork Murder—Police Protection to Donovan, Qs. Mr. Smith-Barry, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. W. Johnston; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 3 [24] 207

De Freyne Estate, Q. Mr. Hayden; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 29 [24] 1530; Qs. Mr. Dillon, Mr. Harrington, Mr. W. Redmond, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Caine; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 20 [27] 559

Dublin Castle Constabulary Office, Protestants in, Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Darling, Mr. Tomlinson; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 3 [28] 26

Evicted Farms, Q. Mr. Ffrench; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 31 [25] 9; Q. Mr. Knox; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 7, 583; Qs. Mr. Flynn, Mr. Ross, Mr. Macartney; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 16 [28] 1233

Evictions, Police at, Q. Mr. Knox; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 26 [23] 1443

Excise Summonses, Q. Mr. A. O'Connor; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 23 [29] 349

Galway, Extra Police in, Q. Mr. Roche; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 23 [23] 1093; Qs. Mr. Roche, Mr. M'Cartan, Mr. Bodkin, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 27, 1578; Q. Mr. Roche; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 30, 1671

Galway, Public Meeting in, Constables at, Q. Colonel Nolan; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 11 [25] 809

General Election—Police Duty, Q. Mr. Arnold-Forster; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 7 [24] 473

Gort Hurling Club Band, Q. Mr. W. Abraham; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 6 [28] 137

Gun Licences, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 3 [28] 25

Gweedore District Disturbances, Qs. Mr. Barton, Mr. T. D. Sullivan, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Bartley; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 10 [23] 18; Qs. Mr. Ross, Mr. Dane; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 11 [25] 801

Luggacurren Estate — Extra Police in Queen's County, Qs. Mr. Kilbride, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Bodkin; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 1 [24] 30

Lunacy, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 20 [27] 557

[*cont.*

IRELAND—cont.

Police—cont.

Lurgan—Complaint against a Policeman, Q. Mr. E. M'Hugh; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 10 [23] 17

Mullany, Ex-Constable, Q. Colonel Nolan; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 24 [23] 1224

Naas and Newbridge Prosecutions, Q. Mr. Kennedy; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 31 [27] 1385

Personal Police Protection, Q. Mr. T. W. Russell; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 13 [26] 1571; Q. Mr. Knox; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 23 [29] 384

Phœnix Park Depôt—Catholics and Protestants, Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. W. Johnston; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 9 [28] 447

Presbyterians, Q. Captain Donelan; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 20 [29] 14

Protection—Clanricarde Estate, Qs. Mr. Sexton, Mr. Knox, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Ross; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 9 [28] 456

Railway Platforms, Qs. Mr. A. O'Connor, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Storey; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 23 [29] 361

Right of Search, Q. Mr. W. Redmond; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 24 [27] 808

Royal Irish Constabulary Force Fund, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 17 [28] 1382

Strength of, Q. Mr. Dane; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 26 [23] 1444

Tipperary, Barracks in, Q. Mr. Mandeville; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 16 [28] 1232

Wexford County, Extra Police in, Qs. Mr. T. Healy; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 12 [23] 207; *Aug* 17 [28] 1382

Whelahan, Head Constable, Murder of—Release of Convict O'Leary, Q. Mr. Arnold-Forster; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 31 [25] 7

Political Gatherings and Military Bands (see under sub-heading *Army*)

Ponsonby Estate—Purchase of Holdings, Qs. Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Brodrick; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 16 [27] 17

Poor Law

Administration Irregularities, Qs. Mr Mains; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 17 [27] 163; *Aug* 9 [28] 471

Ballinasloe Guardians' Election, Q. Mr. Harrington; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 4 [25] 302

Ballymahon Workhouse Doctor, Q. Mr. D. Sullivan; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 5 [25] 407

Ballymena Union, Q. Mr. E. M'Hugh; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 28 [26] 431

Belfast Lunatics (see sub-heading *Lunatic Asylums*)

Castleblayney Milk Contract, Q. Mr. W. Johnston; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 30 [23] 1659

Castletown Dispensary Residence, Q. Mr. D. Sullivan; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 17 [27] 162

Clerks of Unions and Rate Collectors (Salaries), Return pres. *June* 11 [25] 892

[*cont.*

IRELAND—cont.
Poor Law—cont.
Clonakilty Union — Case of Cornelius Driscoll, Q. Mr. Hayden; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 24 [23] 1226
Deportation from Hong Kong of a Destitute Irishwoman, Q. Dr. Kenny; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 31 [25] 32
Deportation of Irish Paupers from Scotland, Qs. Mr. Dane; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 8 [24] 583; *May* 29, 1544; Q. Mr. Dane; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 4 [25] 288; Q. Mr. Macartney; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 9 [26] 1188
Dispensary Committees, Q. Mr. Bodkin; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 12 [23] 185; Qs. Mr. P. A. M'Hugh, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 13, 322; Q. Mr. Hayden; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 4 [24] 373
Dispensary District Vacancies, Q. Mr. D. Sullivan; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 18 [25] 1344
Dispensary Medical Officers' Residences, Q. Colonel Nolan; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 13 [26] 1567
Dromod Dispensary District—Dr. Pentland, Q. Mr. Tully; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 1 [24] 28; Q. Mr. Dane; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 25, 1271
Dublin Union Precepts, Q. Mr. W. Kenny; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 12 [23] 191
Edenderry Guardians — Case of Macnamara, Q. Mr. Kennedy; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 25 [24] 1260
Fermoy Union Accounts, Qs. Mr. W. Kenny, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Sexton, Mr. A. O'Connor; As. Mr. J. Morley, Mr. Deputy Speaker *Mar* 15 [22] 320
Financial Returns, Q. Mr. Ross; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 29 [24] 1531
Inmates in Workhouses, Q. Mr. Flynn; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 3 [28] 8
Joint-Rated Occupiers, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 3 [28] 24
Kenmare Guardians' Election, Qs. Mr. Kilbride; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 6 [22] 1509; *April* 23 [23] 1098
Killarney Union—Finance, &c., Q. Mr. T. W. Russell; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 9 [22] 1570; Qs. Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Sexton, Sir T. Esmonde, Mr. Bodkin; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 23 [23] 1091; Qs. Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 4 [24] 371; Qs. Mr. T. W. Russell; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 21 [25] 1624; *June* 25 [26] 122
Killucan Medical Officer, Q. Captain Donelan; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 9 [28] 451
Labourers' Cottages (see that sub-heading)
Letterkenny Guardians, Qs. Mr. A. O'Connor, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 26 [23] 1412
Limerick Children at the Pasteur Institute, Q. Mr. M. Austin; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 4 [25] 293
Listowel Union—Finance and Outdoor Relief, Qs. Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 9 [22] 1585; *April* 12 [23] 188; *June* 7 [25] 549; Q. Mr. Sexton; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 21, 1629; Q. Mr. T. W. Russell; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 25 [26] 122
[*cont.*

IRELAND—cont.
Poor Law—cont.
Lunatics in Workhouses (see sub-heading *Lunatics*)
Medical Relief, Q. Mr. A. O'Connor; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 26 [23] 1412
Nationalist Boards of Guardians, Qs. Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Macartney; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 25 [24] 1260
Navan Revision Court, Q. Mr. Gibney; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 20 [22] 681
Nenagh Guardians—Waterworks Loan, Q. Mr. P. J. O'Brien; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 30 [23] 1678
Newcastle, Q. Mr. Arnold-Forster; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 14 [25] 1087; Q. Mr. M. Austin; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 16 [27] 24
Outdoor Relief to Evicted Tenants, Q. Mr. T. W. Russell; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 16 [27] 19
Poor Rates (see that sub-heading)
Registration Fees, Qs. Mr. Tully; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 19 [25] 1467; *June* 21, 1637; *June* 26 [26] 227
Relieving Officers and Private Work—Mr. W. Turner, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 28 [26] 435
Strabane Rate Collection and Voting Lists (see that sub-heading)
Stradone Medical Officer, Q. Dr. Kenny; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 6 [28] 138
Tralee Union Finance, Q. Mr. Ross; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 12 [23] 188; Qs. Mr. T. W. Russell, Sir T. Esmonde; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 10 [24] 758
Tuam Guardianship, Q. Mr. Roche; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 19 [23] 830; Q. Mr. W. Redmond; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 5 [25] 404

Poor Rates
Arrears, Q. Mr. Tully; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 4 [24] 368
Collecting, Q. Mr. Tully; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 10 [24] 783
Collection of in Dublin, Q. Dr. Kenny; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 27 [27] 1141
Financial Positions of Unions (see under sub-heading *Poor Law*—Names of Unions, &c.)
"*Knight of Kerry*," Qs. Mr. Kilbride, Mr. Bodkin; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 26 [23] 1432; Q. Mr. Kilbride; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 7 [24] 483
Roscommon Union — Arrears, Q. Mr. Bodkin; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 23 [27] 667
Seizures (see under sub-heading *Cattle Seizures*)
South Leitrim Collections, Q. Mr. Tully; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 27 [27] 1125

"*Port Yarrock*," *Loss of the*, Motion for the Adjournment of the House (Mr. H. Wilson) *Mar* 29 [22] 906

Post Office
American Mail Routes, Qs. Captain Donelan, Mr. Dane, Mr. Field; As. Mr. A. Morley *April* 19 [23] 844; Qs. Mr. W. Kenny, Mr. M. Healy; As. Mr. A. Morley *May* 8 [24] 604; Q. Mr. M. Healy; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 10, 773;
[*cont.*

IRELAND—cont.
Post Office—cont.
Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 24, 1182; Q. Mr. P. Smith; A. Mr. A. Morley *June* 22 [26] 5
Distances between Ports, Q. Sir J. Leng; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 6 [22] 1506
Queenstown and Moville, Qs. Sir J. Leng, Captain Donelan; As. Mr. A. Morley *April* 6 [22] 1506
Return ordered *April* 4 [22] 1380; Pres. *April* 16 [23] 592
Atlantic Steamship Routes, Qs. Mr. Ross; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth, Mr. A. Morley *June* 4 [25] 309
Ballygurteen, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 7 [28] 249
Baltimore Mails, Q. Mr. Gilhooly; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 20 [23] 985
Belfast, Q. Mr. Arnold-Forster; A. Mr. A. Morley *Mar* 15 [22] 350; Qs. Mr. Young; As. Mr. A. Morley *July* 19 [27] 384; Q. Mr. Knox; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 2, 1579; Q. Mr. Arnold-Forster; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 13 [28] 760; Q. Mr. Knox; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 23 [29] 385
Boherbee (Cork) Post Office, Q. Captain Donelan; A. Mr. A. Morley *June* 14 [25] 1077
Breenagh, Q. Mr. A. O'Connor; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 7 [24] 465
Castle Cove Arrangements, Q. Mr. Kilbride; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 26 [23] 1433
Clare County Mail Cart Service, Q. Mr. W. Redmond; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 7 [28] 250
Clothing Contracts, Qs. Mr. M. Healy; As. Mr. A. Morley *Mar* 15 [22] 339; *April* 5, 1441
Cork, Bandon, and South Coast Railway, Q. Mr. Gilhooly; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 13 [23] 331; Q. Mr. Gilhooly; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 19, 830
Cork, West, Qs. Mr. E. Barry; As. Mr. A. Morley *April* 10 [23] 11
Drumreilly Arrangements, Q. Mr. Tully; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 7 [24] 464
Dublin, Qs. Mr. Field; As. Mr. A. Morley *Mar* 20 [22] 690; *April* 20 [23] 965, 966; Q. Mr. Hayden; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 20, 974; Q. Mr. Ross; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 24 [24] 1160; Qs. Mr. Field; As. Mr. A. Morley *May* 24, 1182; *May* 29, 1529; *June* 1 [25] 165, 166; Q. Mr. Harrington; A. Mr. A. Morley *June* 1, 177; Q. Mr. Hayden; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 6 [26] 1064; Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 20 [27] 534; Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 31, 1397; Qs. Mr. Sweetman; As. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 3 [28] 11; *Aug* 7, 250; *Aug* 9, 466; Q. Mr. D. Sullivan; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 21 [29] 153; Q. Colonel Nolan; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 21, 159
Enniskillen Accommodation, Q. Mr. Dane; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 20 [23] 969; Qs. Mr. Dane, Mr. Jordan; As. Mr. A. Morley *June* 1 [25] 163
Fermanagh Telegraphic Service, Q. Mr. M'Gilligan; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 31 [25] 25

[*cont.*

IRELAND—cont.
Post Office—cont.
Finnor Postal Facilities, Q. Mr. Hayden; A. Mr. A. Morley *Mar* 22 [22] 863
Hilltown Telegraphic Service, Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Mr. A. Morley *Mar* 22 [22] 865
Holyhead and Kingstown Mails, Q. Mr. W. Kenny; A. Mr. A. Morley *June* 26 [26] 233
Killybegs Harbour, Qs. Sir M. Stewart, Mr. Dane; As. Mr. A. Morley *May* 24 [24] 1184
Leitrim (South) Mails, Q. Mr. Tully; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 13 [26] 1564
Limerick Postal and Telegraph Staff, Qs. Mr. W. Kenny; As. Mr. A. Morley *Mar* 15 [22] 310; *June* 26 [26] 234
London and Dublin Mail Service, Qs. Mr. Clancy; As. Mr. A. Morley *April* 12 [23] 205
Louisburgh Telegraph Office, Q. Dr. Ambrose; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 24 [23] 1227
Mail Service—New Tenders, Qs. Mr. W. Kenny, Mr. Dane, Mr. M. Healy; As. Mr. A. Morley *May* 8 [24] 603; Qs. Mr. W. Kenny, Mr. Macartney, Mr. Field, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. A. Morley *May* 31 [25] 22; Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 31, 32; Qs. Mr. W. Kenny, Mr. Macartney; As. Mr. A. Morley *June* 7, 569; Q. Mr. W. Kenny; A. Mr. A. Morley *June* 26 [26] 233
Mail Trains—Third-Class Carriages, Q. Mr. Knox; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 23 [29] 385
Mails—London and North Western Railway Company, Q. Captain Donelan; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 3 [24] 213
Miltown Malbay Arrangements, Q. Mr. W. Redmond; A. Mr. A. Morley *June* 12 [25] 900
New Ross Arrangements, Qs. Mr. Ffrench; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 26 [27] 1013; *Aug* 7 [28] 244
Newry, Q. Mr. Carvill; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 1 [24] 37
Portadown, Q. Colonel Saunderson; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 12 [23] 192; Q. Mr. Macartney; A. Mr. A. Morley *June* 8 [25] 680
Portrush Letter Delivery, Q. Mr. J. O'Connor; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 23 [29] 386
Postmen's Wages, Q. Mr. M. Austin; A. Mr. A. Morley *June* 4 [25] 306
Sligo—Case of Carroll, Q. Mr. P. A. M'Hugh; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 21 [29] 156
Stationary Clerks, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 1 [24] 21
Stokestown and Elphin Arrangements, Q. Mr. Bodkin; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 23 [23] 1077
Stoneyford Postmastership, Q. Mr. Webster; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 9 [28] 442
Stranorlar and Strabane Railway, Q. Mr. MacNeill; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 27 [27] 1119
Telegraph Employés, Q. Mr. Knox; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 19 [23] 862

[*cont.*

IRELAND—cont.

Post Office—cont.

Telegraphists' Special Allowances, Q. Mr. Sweetman; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 9 [28] 466

Tipperary Telegraph Facilities, Q. Mr. Mandeville; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 16 [28] 1231

Wexford Letter Deliveries, Q. Mr. Ffrench; A. Mr. A. Morley *June* 21 [25] 1639

Presbyterian Children, Attack on, at Armagh, Qs. Mr. Barton, Mr. Ross; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 10 [28] 568

Prisons

Administration Inquiry, Q. Mr. Harrington; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 7 [28] 260

Dundalk, Q. Dr. Kenny; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 15 [22] 312; Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 10 [23] 4

Ex-Prison Warder Barrett, Q. Colonel Nolan; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 24 [23] 1224; Q. Mr. Harrington; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 7 [28] 260; Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 21 [29] 175

Lady Visitors, Q. Mr. Webb; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 20 [23] 970

Londonderry—Case of P. M'Keefery, Q. Mr. Mains; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 20 [22] 680

Mat-Making, Q. Mr. Quilter; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 16 [27] 26

Mountjoy, Q. Mr. Hayden; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 22 [22] 875; Q. Mr. D. Sullivan; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 10 [24] 782

Probate Registry Officials (see sub-heading *Death Duties*)

Protestants and Roman Catholics in Government Departments (see under sub-headings *Police* and *Local Government Board*)

Public Libraries Act, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr J. Morley *Mar* 15 [22] 334

Public Works (see sub-heading *Board of Public Works*)

Publicans as Magistrates (see sub-heading *Magistracy*)

"*Queen* v. *Linton*," Q. Mr. Kilbride; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 1 [24] 29

Queen's Colleges (see under sub-heading *Education*)

Quit-Rent Office, Dublin, Q. Mr. O'Driscoll; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 3 [26] 785

Quit-Rents, Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Carson; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 23 [27] 659

Rabies

Destruction of Animals, &c., Q. Mr. Knox; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 2 [27] 1578

Dog-Muzzling Regulations, Q. Mr. Flynn; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 27 [23] 1576

Limerick Children at the Pasteur Institute, Q. Mr. M. Austin; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 4 [25] 293

Railways

Achill, Q. Dr. R. Ambrose; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 17 [23] 635; Qs. Lord F. Hamilton, Dr. R. Ambrose, Mr. T. W. Russell; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 26 [26] 236

[*cont.*

IRELAND—cont.

Railways—cont.

Ballina and Killala, Q. Mr. Clancy; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Mar* 22 [22] 877

Car Service at Dundalk, Q. Mr. D. Sullivan; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 12 [25] 923

Cattle Transit, Qs. Mr. Field, Mr. Dodd; As. Mr. Bryce *June* 28 [26] 445; Qs. Mr. Field; As. Mr. Bryce *July* 24 [27] 797; *Aug* 6 [28] 134; Q. Mr. Macartney; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 20 [29] 18

Clare and Banagher, Q. Mr. Molloy; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 4 [24] 367

Consignment Notes, Q. Mr. Clancy; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 9 [28] 446

Contracting Out of Liability, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 13 [23] 339; Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 6 [28] 135

Conveyance of Harvesters, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 28 [26] 446

Cork, Bandon, and South Coast, Q. Mr. Gilhooly; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 13 [23] 331; Q. Mr. Gilhooly; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 19, 830

Drogheda and Dublin, Q. Mr. Clancy; A. Mr. Mundella *Mar* 22 [22] 863

Drumshanbo Stationmaster, Qs. Mr. Tully, Mr. P. A. M'Hugh; As. Mr. Burt *April* 26 [23] 1440; Q. Mr. Tully; A. Mr. Mundella *May* 3 [24] 217

Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford, Q. Dr. Kenny; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 3 [26] 794

Galway and Clifden, Qs. Colonel Nolan; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Mar* 13 [22] 148; *June* 15 [25] 1212; Q. Mr. Foley; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 3 [26] 789; References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 17 [28] 1420, &c.

Level Crossings, Q. Mr. Dane; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 20 [23] 969; Q. Mr. Rentoul; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 13 [28] 769

Light Railways, Qs. Mr. Ross, Mr. Sexton; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 21 [29] 173

London and North Western—Soldiers on Irish Mail Boats, Q. Major Rasch; A. Mr. Burt *April* 26 [23] 1436; Qs. Major Rasch, Mr. W. Johnston; As. Mr. Mundella *May* 3 [24] 236

Mail Service Tenders (see sub-heading *Post Office*)

Mail Trains—Third-Class Carriages, Q. Mr. Knox; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 23 [29] 385

Mixed Trains, Qs. Mr. Clancy; As. Mr. Mundella *April* 12 [23] 206; Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. Mundella *May* 10 [24] 799; Q. Mr. Bodkin; A. Mr. Burt *May* 28, 1414; Qs. Mr. T. Curran, Mr. Bodkin, Mr. M. Austin; As. Mr. Bryce *June* 14 [25] 1080; Q. Mr. Tully; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 22 [26] 7

Police on Platforms, Qs. Mr. A. O'Connor, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Storey; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 23 [29] 361

Rates at Boyle, Q. Mr. Bodkin; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 13 [28] 762

Rates—Bacon and Pork, Q. Mr. Ross; A. Mr. Burt *May* 28 [24] 1406

Schull and Skibbereen Light Railway, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 10 [23] 29

[*cont.*

IRELAND—cont.

Railways—cont.

Sligo, Leitrim, and Northern Counties, Qs. Mr. Wolff, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Dane, Mr. Jackson; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 26 [23] 1429; Q. Mr. Jordan; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 1 [25] 170

Southern Railway Bill, Q. Mr. Field; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 19 [23] 827

Stranorlar and Glenties, Q. Mr. T. D. Sullivan; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 2 [22] 1102; Q. and Obs. Earl of Mayo, Earl of Rosebery *June* 11 [25] 786; Q. Mr. Mac Neill; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 27 [27] 1119

Through Rates, Q. Mr. Clancy; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 9 [28] 446

Tralee and Dingle, Q. Sir T. Esmonde; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 13 [22] 143; Q. Sir T. Esmonde; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 12 [23] 184

Tralee and Dingle—Additional Estimate, Copy pres. *May* 9 [24] 748

Tralee and Dingle—Vote for, Con. in Com. *June* 20 [25] 1546

Waterford and Limerick Company's Line, Q. Colonel Nolan; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 13 [26] 1567

Rathdrum Water Supply, Q. Mr. J. O'Connor; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 13 [23] 328

Rathlin Island

County Cess, Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 27 [27] 1124

Voters, Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 27 [27] 1124

Registration Bill, Qs. Mr. Clancy, Mr. Carson, Mr. Macartney, Mr. Darling; As. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 22 [22] 864

Registration Fees, Qs. Mr. Tully; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 19 [25] 1467; *June* 21, 1637; *June* 26 [26] 227

Registration of Title Act

Dublin—Chief Clerk, Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 16 [23] 457

Dublin Union Precepts, Q. Mr. W. Kenny; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 12 [23] 191

"*Torish* v. *Orr*," Q. Mr. Dane; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 30 [23] 1666

Registration of Titles, Qs. Mr. M'Cartan, Mr. M. Healy, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Dane; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 8 [24] 592; Q. Mr. M. Healy; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 10, 772; Qs. Mr. W. Johnston, Mr. Carson, Mr. Ross; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 3 [28] 6

Return ordered *April* 24 [23] 1328; Return pres. *July* 2 [26] 772

Registry of Deeds Staff (see sub-heading *Deeds*)

Reproductive Loans, Qs. Mr. Tully; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 29 [24] 1534; Qs. Mr. Tully; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 10; *June* 1 [25] 169; *June* 5, 411; [26] 1298

Richmond Asylum (see sub-heading *Lunatics, &c.*)

Richmond Prison (see sub-heading *Army—Dublin Main Drainage Scheme*)

Rinn and Black River Drainage, Q. Mr. Tully; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 19 [27] 364

[*cont.*

IRELAND—cont.

Royal Hospital for Incurables, Dublin, Qs. Mr. O'Driscoll, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *June* 8 [25] 677; Qs. Mr. M. Healy, Mr. T. W. Russell; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 6 [26] 1072

Royal Irish Constabulary (see sub-heading *Police*)

Sankey, Sir R. (see under sub-heading *Board of Public Works*)

Scart Hely Voters' List, Q. Mr. Webb; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 21 [29] 150

Schools (see sub-heading *Education*)

Shannon, Board of Works Land near (see sub-heading *Board of Works Land in Leitrim*)

Shannon River, Lighting, Q. Mr. O'Keeffe; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 5 [26] 949

Simson Estate, County Roscommon, Q. Mr. Bodkin; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 3 [24] 206

Sligo Harbour Commissioners — Pilotage, Copy pres. *May* 10 [24] 912

Small Holdings, Res. (Colonel Nolan) *April* 13 [23] 398

Solicitors (see sub-heading *Crown and Sessional Crown Solicitors*)

Southern Railway Bill, Q. Mr. Field; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 19 [23] 827

Spencer Dock, Q. Mr. Tuite; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 12 [23] 200

Spike Island—Soldiers Unloading Coal, Q. Captain Donelan; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 5 [22] 1450

Strabane-Lifford Road, Q. Mr. Dane; A. Mr. Bryce *May* 31 [25] 13

Strabane Voting Lists and Rate Collection, Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 13 [28] 773; *Aug* 16, 1238; Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy, Commander Bethell, Mr. Ross, Lord F. Hamilton; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 16, 1228; Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Bartley; As. Mr. Speaker *Aug* 17, 1388

Stradone (*Cavan*) *Medical Officer*, Q. Dr. Kenny; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 6 [28] 138

Strangford Graveyard, Q. Mr. Wolff; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 8 [25] 686

Strokestown Medical Officer, Q. Mr. Maguire; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 16 [28] 1255

Suck Drainage, Q. Colonel Nolan; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 15 [25] 1212; References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 17 [28] 1416, &c.

Supply (see under that title)

Swine Fever, Q. Colonel Nolan; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 13 [22] 148; Q. Mr. Macartney; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 17 [27] 167

Tithe Rent-Charge Arrears, Qs. Mr. Gibney Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J., Morley *April* 30 [23] 1670

Tithe Rentcharges, Motion for a Return (Earl of Belmore) *July* 3 [26] 775

"*Torish* v. *Orr*," Q. Mr. Dane; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 30 [23] 1666

Town Improvements Acts—Police Prosecutions, Q. Mr. Tully; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 30 [27] 1269; Q. Mr. Kennedy; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 31, 1385

[*cont.*

IRELAND—cont.

Town Parks, Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 22 [22] 877; Qs. Mr. M'Cartan, Mr. Knox; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 5, 1432

Training Ships (see under sub-heading *Navy*)

Tramways, Clogher Valley, Q. Mr. M'Gilligan; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Mar* 19 [22] 567; Q. Mr. M'Gilligan; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 23 [23] 1100

Trustee Act, 1893, Q. Mr. W. Kenny; A. Sir C. Russell *Mar* 13 [22] 152

Tyrone, North, Register, Qs. Lord F. Hamilton, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 23 [29] 382

Valentia—Construction of Boatslips, Qs. Mr. Kilbride; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 26 [23] 1433; *May* 1 [24] 31

Ventry Harbour Works, Q. Sir T. Esmonde; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 26 [23] 1433

Veterinary College, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 15 [22] 345; Q. Mr. W. Johnston; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 13 [23] 326; Qs. Mr. W. Johnston, Mr. Carson; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 10 [24] 807; Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 31 [25] 26; References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *June* 21 [25] 1719, &c.

Veterinary Inspectors, Q. Mr. Ambrose; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 19 [22] 559

Wallace Estate, Lisburne, Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 31 [25] 12

Walsh, Hannah, Case of, Q. Mr. Macartney; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 16 [28] 1235; References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 20 [29] 65, &c.

Walsh, Michael, Convict, Q. Mr. Hayden; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 22 [22] 875

Warrants and Summonses, Issue of, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 30 [27] 1241

Westmeath—Printing Contracts, Qs. Mr. D. Sullivan; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 31 [25] 9; *Aug* 9 [28] 436

Westport Disaster, Qs. Mr. W. O'Brien, Mr. H. Plunkett, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley, Mr. Bryce *June* 15 [25] 1225

Wexford—Decrease in Crime, Qs. Mr. Thomas Healy, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 16 [23] 458; Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Thomas Healy; As. Mr. J. Morley *July* 26 [27] 1012

Wexford Grand Jury, Q. Mr. Ffrench; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 2 [27] 1564; Qs. Mr. Ffrench, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Thomas Healy; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 6 [28] 132; Q. Mr. Ffrench; A. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 9, 459

Whisky Permits, Falsification of in Belfast, Qs. Mr. J. O'Connor, Mr. Sexton; As. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 14 [25] 1098; Qs. Mr. J. O'Connor; As. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 18, 1352; *June* 22 [26] 15; Qs. Mr. A. O'Connor, Sir W. Lawson; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 23 [29] 379

Wicklow County Officials' Residences, Q. Mr. Sweetman; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 12 [25] 905

IRELAND—cont.

Wicklow Harbour—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *July* 30 [27] 1287

Writs of Summonses—District Registries, Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Mr. J. Morley *April* 27 [23] 1584

Young, Rev. A. B. R.—Orange Outrage, Q. Mr. O'Driscoll; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 23 [27] 669

Irish Education Act (1892) Amendment Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Field; Read 1° *Mar* 20 [22] 787
2R. negatived *April* 13 [23] 427

Irish Education Bill

c. Motion for Leave (Mr. J. Morley); Read 1° *May* 24 [24] 1197
Withdrawn *Aug* 9 [28] 548

Irish Haymakers, Attack on, at Barnet

Qs. Mr. Weir, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 7 [28] 261; Qs. Mr. Weir, Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 14, 985

Irish Lights Board Constitution Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Finucane; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 453

[Dropped]

ISAACSON, Mr. F. W., *Tower Hamlets, Stepney*

Anglo-German Railway in South-West Africa [25] 1472
Auctioneers' Licences [25] 1349
Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, Com. [28] 201
Food Adulteration Bill, Intro. [22] 676
Foreign Goods for Public Offices [25] 1341
Kaba Rega Affairs [25] 284
Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, Com. [28] 813, 838, 839, 1021, 1029, 1044
Mining Royalties, Rents, and Wayleaves, Res. [22] 1557
Parliamentary Election Expenses, Res. [24] 1360
Peruvian External Debt [25] 304
Trust Companies Bill, Res. [22] 675
Wadelai, Papers Relating to [24] 810
Ways and Means — Financial Statement, Com. [23] 1163, 1187

Islington—Gifford Street Fatal Accident—Removal of Dead Body

Q. Mr. Lough; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 28 [24] 1401

ITALY

Anglo-Italian Convention (see under title AFRICA)

Kassala, Occupation of, Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Sir E. Grey *July* 23 [27] 666

[*cont.*

Itinerant Street Music (London) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Jacoby; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 458
[Dropped]

JACKS, Mr. W., *Stirlingshire*
Berwickshire Inland Revenue Business [27] 1396
Education Act, Working of, in Scotland [22] 437
Industrial Accidents and the "Labour Gazette" [23] 1074
Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Con. [24] 1639
Railways
  Advertisements at Stations [25] 1206
  Preference to Traders [27] 169
Royal Liver Society [25] 1070; [27] 1119
Scotch School Books [24] 1267
Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [23] 1594

JACKSON, Right Hon. W. L., *Leeds, N.*
Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, Con. [27] 1609, 1615, 1622, 1626, 1631, 1633, 1646, 1647, 1658; [28] 407
Building Societies Returns [27] 1582
Cork Murder [23] 1106
Dockyard Eight Hours Day [25] 1462
Finance Bill, Com. [24] 1216, 1217; [25] 1247, 1248, 1285, 1297, 1298; [26] 190, 191; Con., 1546
Hunslet, St. Silas' School [23] 1579
Irish Education Act [24] 1004
Irish Education Bill, Intro. [24] 1200
Leeds Barracks [25] 1625
Leeds Post Office [25] 11
National Education Report [27] 1560
Navy Estimates—Shipbuilding, Repairs, and Maintenance—Personnel [23] 259
Sligo, Leitrim, and Northern Counties Railway [23] 1430
Supply—Ordnance Survey [24] 989, 990, 991
Thames Conservancy Bill, Con. [26] 391, 392, 396, 1289, 1458, 1459, 1460
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [27] 582, 592
Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 1167, 1169, 1171, 1172, 1173, 1174, 1175

JACOBY, Mr. J. A., *Derbyshire, Mid*
County Council Boundary Committees [25] 286
Elementary School Teachers as Inspectors [22] 329
Itinerant Street Music (London) Bill, Intro. [22] 458

Jamaica Dockyard
Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 1 [24] 44

JAMES, Right Hon. Sir H., *Bury, Lancashire*
Arnold-Forster's, Mr., Letter to "The Times" [22] 872
Compound Householder Voters [24] 761
Factory and Workshops Act (1891) Amendment Bill, Intro. [22] 853
Finance Bill, Com. [26] 36, 37, 42; Con., 1599
Great Western Railway (No. 1) Bill, Instr. to Com. [25] 1069
Old Age Provident Pensions Bill, 2R. [22] 1369, 1370
Parliamentary Elections Expenses, Res. [24] 1343
Period of Qualification and Elections Bill [23] 389, 843, 1453; 2R. [24] 257, 260, 274, 281
Private Bills, Cost of [23] 23
Privilege—Lord Rosebery's Speech at Edinburgh, Res. [22] 602
Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [23] 709
Vacation of Seat on Succession to Peerage, Res. [26] 417

JAPAN
Chino-Japanese War (see that title)
Mail Arrangements, Q. Mr. Baird; A. Mr. A. Morley *June* 28 [26] 447
New Treaty, Q. Sir T. Sutherland; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 16 [28] 1239
Parcel Post, Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. A. Morley *June* 7 [25] 556

JEBB, Mr. R. C., *Cambridge University*
Cambridge Corporation Bill, Con. [24] 343 344
Established Church (Wales) Bill, Motion for Leave [23] 1722

JEFFREYS, Mr. A. F., *Hants, Basingstoke*
Aldershot and Farnborough Police Stations [22] 1446
Army Estimates
  Aldershot Camp, &c. [26] 1083
  Contagious Diseases among the Troops [25] 1019
  Duke of Cambridge [27] 307
  Forage and Supplies [22] 430, 431; [25] 1038
  Gymnastic Training [25] 994
  Horses [26] 911
  Medical Examinations [26] 800
  Military Education [26] 1115, 1116
  Pensions [27] 323
  Warrant Officers' Uniform [25] 996
Army Hospital Meat Supplies [24] 365
Business of the House [26] 772
Canadian Cattle Importation [23] 1087; [24] 1425, 1621, 1622; [26] 8
Contagious Diseases among the Troops [23] 938; [25] 1019
Death Duties [24] 50, 51

[*cont.*

Jeffreys, Mr. A. F.—*cont.*
- District and Parish Councils [23] 1223 ; [27] 797
- Established Church (Wales) Bill—Glebe and Tithe Rent-Charge [24] 216, 588
- Farnham Tithe Dispute [28] 992
- Finance Bill, Com. [25] 83, 110, 709, 1103, 1107 ; [26] 182 ; Con., 1230
- Foreign and Colonial Meat (No. 2) Bill, Intro. [22] 455
- Law Officers of the Crown, Res. [22] 947
- Marking of Foreign and Colonial Meat [23] 25, 859
- Publicans and Military Pensioners [22] 1452
- Supply—Merchandise Marks Act [27] 1489
- Trade and Agriculture, Depression of—Amendt. to Address in Answer to Queen's Speech [22] 120
- Ways and Means — Financial Statement, Com. [23] 540, 1183, 1316

Jersey, Earl of
- "Costa Rica Packet," Petition Pres. [23] 813
- Music and Dancing Licences (Middlesex) Bill, 2R. [25] 160

Johnson-Ferguson, Mr. J. E., ***Leicester, Loughborough***
- Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 543 ; Com. [25] 1103, 1108, 1109 ; [26] 584, 611 ; Con., 1246
- Truro and Newquay Junction Railway Bill, Con. [24] 1146
- Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 1190

Johnston, Mr. W., ***Belfast, S.***
- Betting and Gambling Legislation [25] 694
- Chimney Sweepers Bill, Con. [25] 990
- Civil Service in the Eastern Colonies [25] 1347
- Crimean Veterans—Case of Donovan [26] 218
- Dogs Bill, 2R. [23] 1781
- Established Church (Wales) Bill—Motion for Leave [23] 1699, 1700
- India—Soldiers at Catholic Ceremonies [26] 438
- Intoxicating Liquors Local Veto (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [22] 455
- Introduction of and Ballotting for Bills [22] 163
- Ireland
  - Arran Islands, Destitution in [23] 834
  - Ballymore Eustace Church, Breaking into [28] 242
  - Castleblayney Union Milk Contract [23] 1659
  - Channel Fleet [25] 306
  - Cork Murder [23] 1107 ; [24] 208
  - Cork Street Preacher [23] 1415 ; [24] 212
  - Cycling Races, Bookmakers at [28] 454
  - Deed Stamping [23] 1215
  - Downpatrick Water Supply [27] 559
  - Good Templars, Attack on [25] 1216
  - Grant, Mr. J. [23] 1666

Johnston, Mr. W.—*cont.*
- Ireland—*cont.*
  - Hegarty, Mr. [23] 848
  - Infant Insurance [27] 1124
  - Intermediate Education [25] 1214
  - Land Acts—Select Com. [23] 398
  - Londonderry Barracks [27] 1562
  - Mail Boats, Soldiers on [24] 237
  - National Federation [25] 554
  - Newcastle Harbour [26] 123
  - Orange Disturbances [23] 198 ; [25] 1227
  - Phœnix Park Constabulary Depôt—Catholics and Protestants [28] 448
  - Phœnix Park Vehicular Traffic [24] 476
  - Publicans as Magistrates [25] 673
  - Recruiting for the Navy [26] 232
  - Registration of Titles [28] 6
  - Small Holdings, Res. [23] 404
  - Veterinary College [23] 326 ; [24] 807
- Ladies' Gallery [23] 1449
- Liquor Traffic (Local Veto) Bill [23] 1225
- Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Con. [28] 633
- Ottawa Conference Report [27] 382
- Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, 2R. [24] 730
- Rabies, Treatment of [26] 13
- Religious Intolerance in Hyde Park [27] 1267
- Religious Tests (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [23] 589, 1203, 1326
- Solicitors (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [23] 426
- Straits Settlements—Military Contribution [27] 1117 ; [28] 6, 556
- Supply—Cork Street Preaching [25] 1570, 1571, 1572
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [23] 1202
- Transvaal—Restricting Rights of Public Meetings [27] 805
- Uganda—Sir G. Portal's Report [23] 340
- Uniforms Bill, 2R. [24] 705

Johnstone, Mr. J. H., ***Sussex, Horsham***
- Balfour, Jabez Spencer [24] 1411
- Bankruptcy Administration in Sussex—Case of Mr. Warren [25] 167, 1634 ; [26] 10, 1484
- Behring Sea Arbitration—Attorney General's Fees [25] 408
- Board of Agriculture Publications [24] 235 ; [26] 1480
- Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 652 ; Com. [25] 475, 1233, 1236, 1308 ; [26] 25, 26, 86, 89 ; Con., 1344, 1534
- Sussex Parliamentary Electors' Return [23] 621

Joicey, Mr. J., ***Durham, Chester-le-Street***
- Cab Accidents in the Metropolis [25] 917
- Foreign Goods (Mark of Origin) Bill, 2R. [24] 194
- Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, Com. [28] 804 1004, 1005, 1010, 1042, 1046
- Rating of Machinery Bill, 2R. [24] 742

[*cont.*

Joint Stock Companies' Register Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Clough; Read 1° *Mar* 19 [22] 676
2R. deferred *June* 18 [25] 1434
[Dropped]

JONES, Major E. R., *Carmarthen, &c.*
Bunker Coals [28] 1385
Established Church (Wales) Bill, Motion for Leave [23] 1489, 1745
Lightships, Electrical Communication with [28] 23
Master Mariners and Mates, Education of [29] 414
Post Cards [29] 370
Supply
- Agricultural Education [28] 1553
- "Board of Trade Journal" [28] 1542
- Census Returns—Welsh-Speaking Population [29] 324
- Diplomatic and Consular Services [29] 326, 329

Trade Dispute and the Police in Wales [28] 22
Wilson Tariff [28] 1384

JONES, Mr. D. B., *Gloucester, Stroud*
Harewood End Magistrates' Clerk [23] 182
Stroud School Board [23] 1222
Supply
- Public Education, 213
- University Colleges in Wales, 225

Thames and Severn Canal [28] 979

JORDAN, Mr. J., *Meath, S.*
Enniskillen Post Office [25] 163
Labourers' Cottages, Dunshaughlin [24] 224
Meath (South) Voting List [27] 1243
Sligo, Leitrim, &c., Railway [23] 1430; [25] 170

Judges at Race Meetings
Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Sir J. Rigby *May* 10 [24] 794; Qs. Mr. Hanbury; As. Mr. R. T. Reid *June* 5 [25] 428; Qs. Mr. Hanbury, Mr. Darling; As. Mr. R. T. Reid *June* 8, 691

Judicial Statistics (England and Wales)
Copy pres. Aug 16 [28] 1355

Juries (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Ross; Read 1° *Aug* 7 [28] 368
Read 2° *Aug* 14, 1084
Con. in Com. and Reported; Read 3°, and passed *Aug* 15, 1151
l. Read 1ª *Aug* 16, 1215
Read 2ª *Aug* 17, 1376
Com.; Reported, &c.; Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 20 [29] 9
Royal Assent *Aug* 25
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 49]

Jury Law (Amendment) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. A. Williams; Read 1° *Mar* 21 [22] 853
[Dropped]

Justices of the Peace
See under *Law and Justice and Police—Magistracy*, and for *Scotch and Irish Questions* (see under titles SCOTLAND and IRELAND)

Justices of the Peace Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Luttrell; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 454
[Dropped]

KASSALA (*see under* AFRICA)

KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH, RIGHT HON. SIR U. J. (Secretary to the Admiralty), *Lancashire, Clitheroe*
Accountant General's Department [26] 952
Admiralty Second Division Clerks [29] 366
Admiralty Town Establishments [29] 366
Africa—H.M. Ships Stationed on the East Coast [23] 1214
Atlantic Derelicts [22] 1100
Atlantic Steamship Routes [25] 310
Australian Station Naval Service [27] 1268
"Benbow," H.M.S. [28] 1381; [29] 422
Bilge Keels for Ships [26] 790
Boilers for Torpedo-Boat Destroyers [25] 1078
"Bothnia," H.M.S. [22] 574
Chains, Old, Sale of [24] 468
Channel Fleet—Visit to Scotland, Ireland, &c. [25] 306, 421, 557; [26] 135; [28] 1237
Coaling the Channel Squadron [25] 1223; [26] 220
Coals [25] 11
Contracts
- Armour-Piercing Projectiles [22] 1510
- Black Handkerchiefs [25] 419
- Boats Made in Germany [24] 41, 226
- Bolts and Nuts [23] 972; [24] 1405
- Boots—Trade Union Wages [24] 1285
- Contract Work, Overtime on [22] 440
- Cutlery [23] 187
- Foreign Goods [25] 1213
- Harland and Wolff's Labourers [22] 441
- Manufacturing Goods on the Premises of the Firm Tendering [27] 376
- New Ships—Return [27] 556
- Paisley—Trade Union Wages [24] 587
- Shipbuilding Expenditure [22] 306, 560
- Steel Company of Newton [26] 566
- Tenders for Ships [24] 20, 1165
- Thames Shipbuilding Firms [26] 221, 569, 571, 573, 1080
- Torpedo Boats [22] 682
- Trades Union Wages [23] 617; [26] 426, 1567

[*cont.*

KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH, Right Hon. Sir U. J.—*cont.*
  Construction of New Ships [26] 1470
  Courts Martial—Officers of the Royal Marines [23] 1447
  "Crescent," H.M.S. [22] 442
  Cruisers, Ineffective [25] 15
  Deptford—Victoria Victualling Yard Boots and Shoes Examiner [28] 367
  Dockyards, Foreign Officers Visiting [23] 1451
  Early Morning Work on H.M. Ships at Portsmouth [23] 982
  Engine-Room Complements [22] 563
  Expenditure at Home Naval Establishments [23] 465
  Explosives, Shipping of, at Plymouth [27] 547
  Foreign Service—Reliefs [25] 162
  Foreign Stations Garrisoned with Marines [24] 1163
  "Galatea," H.M.S., Explosion [25] 904
  German Language on Board H.M.S. "Britannia" [25] 1083
  Gun Practice off the Nore [25] 574
  Gunners' Pay [27] 1246
  Haulbowline Dockyard [22] 316, 1007
  "Havock" Plans [22] 434; [24] 1263
  Jamaica Dockyard [24] 44
  Indian Troopships [22] 574, 1507
  Ironclads at Sea [22] 575
  Launching, Expenses of [24] 1004
  Lee-Metford Rifle [22] 443
  Malta, Fever at [27] 171
  Manœuvres [22] 688; [26] 1313
  Manning Ships [24] 455
  Marine Transport Service [24] 1263
  Marksmen's Pay [28] 468
  Naming Ships [24] 455

  Navy Estimates
    Appropriation of Excesses [25] 926
    Armour Plates [23] 289
    Clothing [29] 314
    Manning [23] 60, 61, 101; [29] 315
    Men and Boys—Statement [22] 749, 764, 767, 779
    Shipbuilding, Repairs, and Maintenance—Personnel [23] 60, 61, 68, 69, 70, 81, 87, 254, 280
    Warrant Officers [23] 396

  New Battleships Launched in 1893 [22] 560
  Nickel Steel Plates [22] 1318
  Oil Fuel [22] 140, 689
  Pacific Cable—Survey [26] 1305
  Personal Explanation [22] 870
  "Powerful," H.M.S. [22] 1577
  Public Press Regulations [23] 214
  Queen's Birthday Honours—Order of the Bath, &c. [25] 314, 576, 1084
  Rations, Condemned [22] 689
  Recruiting [26] 231
  Reserve, Training [22] 1248
  "Royal Sovereign," H.M.S. [24] 203

[*cont.*

KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH, Right Hon. Sir U. J.—*cont.*
  Scotland—Protection of Fisheries—Gunboats [25] 30, 1221; [26] 948
  Seamen and Stokers [23] 1674; [26] 425
  Stores, Inspection of [22] 314
  Tangier, British Warships at [25] 1095
  Torpedo Boat Destroyers [22] 682
    Construction of [25] 1225; [28] 999
  Torpedo Catcher Flues [27] 1245
  Training Ships Visits to Scotland, Ireland, &c. [22] 685; [24] 1002, 1264; [25] 420; [26] 1314; [28] 1237, 1386; [29] 351
  Uniforms, Ex-Officers' [23] 612
  "Victoria" Disaster [22] 749
  Warrant Officers [26] 224
  Warren Hastings Island, Wrecks off [22] 1568; [23] 852
  Watertight Bulkheads on Battleships [24] 1156
  White Ensign [22] 1244

KEARLEY, Mr. H. E., *Devonport*
  Central Telegraph Office [25] 1215
  Chelsea and Kilmainham Hospitals [25] 918
  Crimean Veterans—Case of Donovan [26] 218
  Dockyard Labour and Wages [22] 321; Res., 608, 611, 621, 625, 658
  Dockyard Police Transfers [24] 470
  Employment for Soldiers' Wives—Shirt-Making [24] 754
  Food Adulteration [24] 1391
  Mount Wise Bathing Place, Devonport [24] 1271
  Naval Allotments, Payment of [23] 1216
  Naval Programme, Contracts under [26] 221
  Naval Warrant Officers [26] 224

  Navy Estimates
    Clothing [29] 313
    Manning [23] 72; [29] 314
    Pensions [29] 316
    Warrant Officers [23] 396

  Privilege—Lord Rosebery's Speech at Edinburgh, Res. [22] 607
  Raglan Barrack Sewage Outfall [23] 191
  Shop Hours Act (1892) Amendment Bill, Com. [24] 1128
  Stokers in the Navy [26] 425
  Stonehouse Marine Barracks—Alleged Assault by an Officer [22] 320
  Supply, Discussion of [29] 267
  "Tamar" Seamen Fatality [25] 1207

KEAY, Mr. J. Seymour, *Elgin and Nairn*
  Business of the House [29] 28
  Canadian Cattle Importation [25] 1468
  Deer Forest Commission [22] 1097
  Education Code [24] 459
  Elgin, Prosecutions for Burning in [24] 472
  Foreign Meat [22] 1254, 1568
  House of Lords—Rejection of Bills [27] 562

[*cont.*

KEAY, Mr. J. Seymour—*cont.*
- India, Government of, Res. [28] 1111, 1115, 1116, 1120, 1127
- India—Mehdi Hassan [24] 458, 1408
- Irish Fisheries—South Coast [24] 1155
- Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Con. [28] 541; Lords Amendts. [29] 290, 295, 298
- Railway Rates [26] 947
- Small Holdings [26] 690, 1463

KENNAWAY, Sir J. H., *Devon, Honiton*
- Locomotive Threshing Engines Bill, Intro. [23] 1068; 2R. [24] 994
- Uganda [22] 1516; [25] 241

KENNEDY, Mr. P. J., *Kildare, N.*
- Ireland
  - Catholic Holidays in the Army [29] 395
  - Catholic Police [29] 14, 348, 415
  - Cattle Outrages [25] 1071
  - Confey Graveyard [24] 361
  - Firearms, Discharging in the Streets [29] 366
  - Labourers' Cottages [22] 1099; [24] 585, 771; [28] 981, 1226; [29] 23
  - Naas and Newbridge Police Prosecutions [27] 1385
  - Poor Law Administration — Edenderry Board of Guardians, &c. [24] 1260

KENNY, Dr. J. E., *Dublin, College Green*
- Army Estimates—Pigeon House Fort, Dublin [26] 816
- Deportation of a Destitute Irishwoman from Hong Kong [25] 32
- French Customs Tariff [25] 36
- Ireland
  - Board of Works Contracts—Cement [27] 1139
  - Charitable Bequests Commissioners [28] 143
  - Clare County, Crime in [22] 325
  - Collection of Rates in Dublin [27] 1141
  - Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway [26] 794
  - Dundalk Gaol [22] 312
  - Killiney Bay—Removal of Sand from Foreshore [26] 794
  - Leighlinbridge Female National School [27] 1140, 1266, 1272; [28] 565
  - Licensed Restaurant Facilities in Dublin [28] 139
  - Lunacy, Increase in [24] 775
  - Lunacy Report [27] 1006
  - Lunatics in Belfast Workhouse [24] 803
  - Mullingar Water Supply [22] 330
  - National Gallery [26] 793; [27] 1577
  - Queen's Colleges, Professors in [23] 987
  - Richmond Lunatic Asylum [23] 990; [24] 778
  - Richmond Prison [27] 1009
  - Stradone Medical Officer [28] 138
- Lunacy, Increase in [27] 1563
- Municipal Franchise (Ireland) Amendment (No. 2) Bill, Intro. [22] 452

[*cont.*

KENNY, Dr. J. E.—*cont.*
- National Gallery [26] 792; [27] 1140; Res. [28] 33
- Queen's Speech, Reply to
  - Administration of the Law in Ireland [22] 291
  - Dynamite Prisoners [22] 221
- Supply—Wicklow Harbour [27] 1289
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Com. [27] 1534, 1540, 1595; Con. [28] 177

KENNY, Mr. M. J., *Tyrone, Mid.*
- Mountjoy Demesne Educational Bequest [27] 358

KENNY, Mr. W., *Dublin, St. Stephen's Green*
- American Mail Service [24] 604
- Black Watch, 1st Battalion [26] 448
- Business of the House [22] 1595
- Civil Service—New Treasury Rules [22] 1112
- Ireland
  - Boycotting at Kells [22] 1111
  - Cattle Outrages [25] 307
  - Church Fund [22] 581
  - Clare, Crime in [22] 323
  - Cork—Sunday Disturbances [22] 1588
  - County Courts [26] 791
  - Dublin Union Precepts [23] 191
  - Education Office [25] 681, 906
  - Evicted Farms—Returns [27] 813
  - Fermoy Union Accounts [22] 321
  - Holyhead and Kingstown Mails [26] 233
  - Labourers' Cottages [25] 680
  - Land-Grabbing Denunciations [22] 1451; [28] 769
  - Lecture Theatre of the Royal Dublin Society [24] 376
  - Limerick Postal and Telegraph Staff [22] 310; [26] 234
  - Macfarlane, H. S., Case of [27] 374
  - Mail Contract [24] 603; [25] 22, 569; [26] 233
  - Poaching in the Shannon [27] 373
  - Richmond Asylum [23] 196
  - Trustee Act (1893) [22] 152
- Land Tenure (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [23] 129, 130
- Straw Bottle-Envelopes, Importation of [23] 24
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [27] 443, 445, 447, 450, 453; Com., *cl.* 1, 1033, 1034, 1065, 1067, 1076, 1086, 1155
  - Sub-Tenants [28] 248
- Trustee Act (1893) Amendment Bill, Intro. [22] 457

Kensington Local Examinations
- Q. Mr. Diamond; A. Mr. Acland *July* 20 [27] 550

Kent Poor Law Boundaries
- Q. Colonel Warde; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 7 [25] 588

Kenyon, Hon. G. T., *Denbigh, &c.*

- Doyle Unions [24] 789
- Great Western Railway (No. 1) Bill, Instr. to Com. [25] 1063
- Wales—School Inspectors [22] 1505

Kenyon-Slaney, Colonel W., *Shropshire, Newport*

- Army Estimates
  - Clothing, &c. [26] 993
  - Medical Department [26] 823
  - Militia [26] 863, 866
  - Ranges, &c. [26] 1092
  - Recreation Grounds [26] 1112
  - Volunteers [26] 904
- Death Duties [24] 479
- Finance Bill, Com. [25] *cl.* 2, 474, 634; *cl.* 3, 694, 705, 713; *cl.* 5, 989, 1107, 1117, 1128, 1137, 1140, 1157, 1158; *cl.* 6, 1250, 1257; *cl.* 14 [26] 29, 45; *cl.* 17, 147, 172; *cl.* 23, 312; *cl.* 25, 342; *cl.* 31, 579; Con., 1240, 1255, 1512, 1543, 1577, 1589, 1590; Con. [27] 77, 101; 3R., 224
- Rating of Machinery Bill, 2R. [24] 744
- Trade and Agriculture, Depression of—Amendt. to Address in Answer to Queen's Speech [22] 113
- Ways and Means — Financial Statement, Com. [23] 1185

Kerman—Trade Impositions

- Q. Mr. Snape; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 5 [25] 421

Kettering Charities

- Q. Mr. Channing; A. Mr. F. S. Stevenson *July* 24 [27] 802

Kew Gardens

- Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. Acland *July* 23 [27] 658

Kilbride, Mr. D., *Kerry, S.*

- Ireland
  - Bray Harbour [27] 799
  - Castle Cove Postal Arrangements [23] 1433
  - Cattle Seizures in County Kerry [25] 1086
  - Cooscroom Pier [25] 1219
  - Evictions—Rathcline, County Longford [23] 829
  - Horse-Breeding in Kerry [24] 460
  - Kenmare Poor Law Guardians' Election [22] 1509; [23] 1098
  - Kerry, South—Fishery Improvements [24] 31
  - Kilpedder Petty Sessions Court [23] 1431, 1670
  - "Knight of Kerry" and the Poor Rate [23] 1432; [24] 483
  - Labourers' Cottages, Strabane Union [23] 202
  - Land Purchase—Case of T. Whelan [25] 1217

Kilbride, Mr. D.—*cont.*

- Ireland—*cont.*
  - Luggacurren Estate — Extra Police in Queen's County [24] 30
  - "Queen *v.* Linton" [24] 29
  - Valentia Island Boatslip [23] 1434
- Land Tenure (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [22] 449; 2R. [23] 114, 141
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Com. [27] 1510

Kilmorey, Earl of

- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [28] 948

Kimber, Mr. H., *Wandsworth*

- Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, Com. [28] 45, 71, 82, 100, 105, 187, 202, 204, 223, 224, 371, 373, 401; *New cl.*, 402
- London County Council (Tower Bridge Southern Approach) Bill, 2R. [22] 1231

KIMBERLEY, Earl of (Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs)

- Aliens Bill, Pres. [26] 1059
- Behring Sea Award Bill, 2R. [23] 174; Com., 448
- Business of the House [28] 118
- "Costa Rica Packet," Petition pres. [23] 815
- Finance Bill, 1R. [27] 354, 355; 2R., 978
- Franco-Siamese Question [27] 334
- Indian Cotton Duties [27] 515, 524
- Irish Church Fund [25] 278, 279, 280
- Licensing Law Amendment Bill, 2R. [26] 928, 931
- Locomotive Threshing Engines Bill, Com. [26] 938
- Luccombe and Stoke-Pero, School Accommodation at [23] 441
- Merchandise Marks Act (1887) Amendment Bill, 2R. [25] 778
- Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, 2R. [26] 214
- Uganda [25] 139, 148, 785; [29] 5
- Zanzibar Indemnity Bill, 2R. [27] 336

King, Sir H. S., *Hull, Central*

- Afghan War Promotions [26] 118
- Burma Assistant Commissioner [25] 563
- "Cobb *v.* The Great Western Railway Company" [25] 907
- East Indian Railway [26] 1307, 1558
- Finance Bill, Com. [25] 982
- Indian Staff Corps [25] 6; [27] 357
- Malta, Fever at [26] 1306
- Pilot Service, Bengal [25] 901
- Steam Trawlers and the Rule of the Road at Sea [25] 563

King Street, Westminster

- References to, in Debate on *Supply, May* 21 [24] 967, 969, 974, &c.

[*cont.*

King's College
  Death from Chloroform, Q. Mr. Channing; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 7 [25] 593
  References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 21 [29] 220, &c.

Kingston-upon-Hull (Court of Record) Bill
c. Intro., Sir A. Rollit; Read 1° *Mar* 20 [22] 788
[Dropped]

KINLOCH, Sir J. G. S., *Perth, E.*
  Canadian Cattle [22] 308
  Scotch Magistrates—Appointment Fees [23] 190

Kitchen and Refreshment Rooms, House of Commons (see under *Parliament—Commons*)

KITSON, Sir J., *York, W.R., Colne Valley*
  East India Revenue Accounts, Com. [28] 1308

KNATCHBULL-HUGESSEN, Mr. H. T., *Kent, Faversham*
  Agricultural Depression in Essex [25] 837
  Behar Cadastral Survey [25] 547; [26] 1469; [28] 763
  Business of the House [22] 1610; [26] 137
  Dockyards
    Apprentices' Instruction [22] 1450
    Classification [22] 1251
    Labour and Wages, Res. [22] 635, 637
    Pensions [22] 1111
  Finance Bill, Com. [25] 104; [26] 38, 271
  Mango Tree Smearing in India [24] 1414; [25] 547
  Medway Dredging [26] 1480
  Nile Reservoirs [28] 449
  Pleuro-Pneumonia in Kent [24] 43, 1279; [25] 429, 1229, 1468
  Railway and Canal Traffic Act—Conciliation Clause [26] 1562
  Railway and Canal Traffic Bill, Com. [28] 792
  Sanitary Inspectorships—Examinations [25] 899
  Sheerness Gunnery Establishment, Money Voted for [24] 1152, 1273
  Wales
    Cathedrals [24] 44
    Intermediate Education [23] 620

KNOWLES, Mr. Lees, *Salford, W.*
  Finance Bill, Com., *cl.* 1 [25] 332, 357, 377; *cl.* 5, 941, 958; *cl.* 6, 1245; [26] 154; *New cls.*, 631; Con., 1423, 1508, 1515
  Free Education at Atherton [23] 1090
[*cont.*

KNOWLES, Mr. Lees—*cont.*
  Habitual Inebriates Committee's Report [22] 332
  Plumbers' Registration Bill, Intro. [22] 461; 2R. [23] 305
  Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [23] 1021
  Tuberculosis Report [22] 153

KNOX, Mr. E. F. V., *Cavan, W.*
  Bechuanaland [23] 186; [25] 582; [28] 450
  British South Africa Company [28] 450; [29] 385
  Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill [29] 402, 406
  Finance Bill, Com. [25] 1687, 1689, 1692
  Gold and Silver Question, Res. [24] 424
  Her Majesty's Theatre, Pall Mall [27] 1579
  Introduction of and Ballotting for Bills [22] 162
  Ireland
    Antrim Catholic Magistrates [23] 862
    Beleek Floods [27] 1577
    Belfast Telegraph Office [27] 1579; [29] 385
    Belfast Workhouse, Lunatics in [22] 1432
    Board of Works—Sir R. Sankey [24] 1405
    Cavan Land Commission—Mr. Bomford, &c. [23] 185, 221, 861, 1416; [24] 780, 1153
    Cavan County Police Inspector [29] 384
    Church Temporalities Fund [24] 484, 795, 1187
    Crime in Galway [28] 457
    Death Duties [23] 1681; [24] 238, 478, 796
    Evicted Farms in Tyrone—Police Protection [25] 583
    Glin Industrial School [25] 1457
    Labourers' Acts—Cootehill Guardians [22] 873
    Land Acts Inquiry [22] 698
    Lanesborough Estate — Case of T. Boland [23] 1418
    Mail Trains—Third-Class Carriages [29] 385
    Personal Police Protection [29] 384
    Police at Evictions [23] 1442
    Rabies [27] 1578
    Teachers' Pensions [28] 759
    Telegraph Employés—Clause 10 of the Treasury Order [23] 862
    Town Parks and Land Acts [22] 1433
  Irish Education Bill, Intro. [24] 1198
  N'Gamiland Concession [25] 581, 1458
  Supply
    Colonial Office, Correspondence [22] 363
    Industrial Schools [29] 71
    National Education, Ireland [29] 241, 245, 252
  Umtali—Queen Chikanga's Consort [22] 562
  Ways and Means, Com. [29] 135

KNUTSFORD, Lord
  Boards of Conciliation Bill, 2R. [26] 387
  Prize Courts Bill, 2R. [25] 893; Com., 1333
  Swaziland Convention [26] 517
  Transvaal—Commandeering [26] 517

LABOUCHERE, Mr. H., *Northampton*

- Anglo-Belgian Agreement [25] 172, 173, 312
- Army Estimates—Egypt, British Soldiers in [22] 545, 546
- British Sphere of Influence in East Africa—Anglo-Belgian Agreement, &c. [24] 1420
- Business of the House, Res. [22] 1624 ; [25] 81
  - Ministerial Statement—Motion for Adjournment of the House [27] 411
  - Procedure on Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Arbitration Bill, Res. [27] 1428, 1429
- Caithness Volunteer Artillery Corps [23] 1684
- Cambridge Corporation Bill, Con. [24] 352, 356 ; 3R., 581
- Chimney Sweepers Bill, Intro. [24] 910 · Com. [25] 888 ; Con., 990
- East African Agreements [25] 173, 175
- Finance Bill, Con. [26] 1231
- Hyde Park, Cabs in [25] 1219
- Income Tax [22] 1055
- Introduction of and Ballotting for Bills [22] 135
- Lunacy Laws—"Commissioners in Lunacy *v.* Sherrard" [22] 584
- Matabeleland Settlement [23] 626, 627
- "Order of the Bath" [25] 576
- Ordnance Survey Staff [25] 1229
- Parliament Buildings, Labour on [25] 414
- Privilege—Lord Rosebery's Speech at Edinburgh, Res. [22] 604, 605
- Procedure of Parliament Amendment Bill, Intro. [23] 1327
- Queen's Speech, Reply to [22] 185, 194, 263
  - House of Lords [22] 196
- Saxe-Coburg, Duke of (Annuity), Res. [23] 1037, 1046
- Supply
  - Bechuanaland, Mashonaland, and Matabeleland [22] 405
  - Cab Strike [24] 1308
  - Colonial Office—South African Telegrams [22] 365
  - Diplomatic and Consular Buildings [22] 1087
  - Egypt, British Occupation of [22] 833
  - Extension of Admiralty Buildings [22] 987
  - House of Commons Kitchen Accounts [24] 1294
  - House of Commons Offices, Commission on [22] 357
  - Law Charges [22] 368
  - Metropolitan Police Courts [22] 993, 995
  - Pluralists in the Public Service [22] 357
  - Uganda [22] 394 ; [25] 184, 212, 220, 221
- Telephone Companies [23] 1660 ; [27] 1135
- Uganda—Sir G. Portal's Report, &c. [23] 340 ; [24] 243, 489, 601, 602, 603 ; [25] 412
- Windsor Forest—Charge for Keys [24] 1276
- Windsor Park—Polo [24] 1276
- Zanzibar, Slaves Shipped from, &c. [24] 601

Labour Commission

- *Assistant Commissioners' Reports,* Q. Mr. Diamond ; A. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 15 [22] 338
- *Cost of,* Q. Mr. Benn ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 27 [23] 1576 ; Q. Mr. J. E. Ellis ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 3 [26] 782
- *Mercantile Marine,* Q. Mr. Buchanan ; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 21 [29] 169
- *Reports,* Q. Mr. Bartley ; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 7 [25] 573

LABOUR DEPARTMENT

- *Ambulance Instruction,* Q. Sir J. Leng ; A. Mr. G. Russell *April* 19 [23] 824
- *Army Factories* (see under title *Army*)
- *Bakers—Journeymen Bakers' Hours of Labour,* Qs. Mr. Barrow, Mr. J. Burns ; As. Mr. G. Russell *Aug* 23 [29] 370
- *Bell's Match Girls' Strike—Case Before Mr. Mead,* Qs. Mr. Macdonald ; As. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 19 [22] 579 ; *April* 16 [23] 467
- *Bootle Jute Company's Works, Strike at,* Q. Colonel Sandys ; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 10 [23] 14
- *Bryant and May's Strike—Trial of Amelia Gifford,* Q. Mr. Macdonald ; A. Mr. G. Russell *May* 10 [24] 810 ; Q. Mr. Macdonald ; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 28, 1402
- *Cab Strike,* Q. Mr. Lough ; A. Mr. G. Russell *May* 24 [24] 1178 ; Qs. Mr. Boulnois, Mr. Webster ; As. Mr. G. Russell *May* 24, 1180 ; Qs. Mr. Lough, Mr. Webster ; As. Mr. Asquith *May* 25, 1282 ; Qs. Mr. Lough ; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 1 [25] 177 ; Qs. Mr. Boulnois, Mr. E. H. Bayley, Mr. C. Fenwick, Mr. Lough ; As. Mr. Asquith *June* 7, 559
  - Debate on the *Vote on Account May* 25 [24] 1298
  - *Prosecution of Boby,* Q. Mr. Lough ; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 3 [26] 788
- *Coal Strike in Scotland,* Q. Mr. K. Hardie ; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 29 [26] 577 ; Qs. Mr. Wason, Mr. Stuart-Wortley, Mr. J. Wilson, Mr. H. Smith ; As. Mr. Asquith *July* 26 [27] 1016 ; Q. Mr. Crawford ; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 10 [28] 554 ; Q. Mr. Paul ; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 24 [29] 420
- *Conciliation Bills,* Q. Sir A. Rollit ; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 19 [27] 381
- *Correspondents, North Wales,* Q. Mr. Lloyd-George ; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 21 [29] 169
- *Dock Labourers,* Qs. Mr. K. Hardie, Mr. Havelock Wilson ; As. Mr. Burt *April* 26 [23] 1407
  - *Government Dockyards* (see under title *Navy*)
- *Docks and Quays Legislation,* Q. Mr. G. Bowles ; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 19 [25] 1470
- *Eight Hours Day in Government Departments* (see under titles *Army* and *Navy*)
- *Eight Hours Movement,* Q. Mr. Brunner ; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 7 [24] 482
- *Factory and Workshop Acts*
  - *Breach of, at Preston,* Q. Mr. P. Stanhope ; A. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 16 [22] 447
  - *Copy pres. July* 19 [27] 488

[*cont.*

LABOUR DEPARTMENT—cont.

Factory and Workshop Acts—cont.

Dangerous Trades, Copy pres. *May* 28 [24] 1504

Exemption from, Q. Sir H. Maxwell; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 27 [27] 1123

Limewashing, &c., Brass Foundries, Copy pres. *June* 25 [26] 204

Factory and Workshop Inspectors

Assistants, Qs. Mr. Fenwick; As. Mr. G. Russell, Mr. Asquith *June* 7 [25] 578

Female, Q. Mr. M. Austin; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 4 [25] 310; Q. Mr. Molloy; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 21, 1632; Q. Captain Donelan; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 6 [26] 1069

London Workshops, Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 20 [29] 18

New Offices in Finsbury Square—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *May* 21 [24] 954, 958, &c.

Wolverhampton Office, Q. Sir A. Hickman; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 1 [24] 27

References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 17 [28] 1434, &c.

Foreign-Made Goods, Importation of (see under *Trade, Board of*)

Government Farms, Wages on, Q. Mr. Everett; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 14 [28] 984; Qs. Mr. Everett, Mr. Weir, Mr. A. C. Morton; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 24 [29] 419

Government Works—Employment of Italians, Q. Mr. J. Rowlands; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *June* 18 [25] 1350

Industrial Accidents, Q. Mr. Jacks; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 23 [23] 1074

"*Labour Gazette*," Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 16 [23] 454; Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. G. Bowles, Mr. Bartley; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert, Sir W. Harcourt *April* 20, 976; Q. Mr. Jacks; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 23, 1074

Laundries, Copy pres. *June* 5 [25] 496

Laundries and the Factory Bill—Women's Trade Union League, Q. Mr. Stuart-Wortley; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 7 [25] 591

Mines (see that title)

Parliament Buildings, Labour on, Q. Mr. Labouchere; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *June* 5 [25] 414

Railways—Hours of Labour (see under title *Railways*)

Shops, Hours of Labour in, Q. Mr. Anstruther; A. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 20 [22] 684

Strikes and Lock-Outs, Copy pres. *May* 29 [24] 1636

Sunday Labour in Factories, Q. Mr. Burnie; A. Mr. G. Russell *May* 24 [24] 1158

Thames Shipbuilders and Naval Contracts (see under title *Navy*)

Trade Unions, Copy pres. *June* 28 [26] 516

Trade Unions Reports, Q. Mr. Howell; A. Mr. Mundella *Mar* 19 [22] 564

Trades Union Wages and Government Contracts, Qs. Mr. Fenwick; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 10 [23] 9; Q. Mr. Caldwell; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *April* 17, 616; Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 8 [24] 587; Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 24, 1182; Q. Mr. C. Shaw; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 25, 1285; Q. Mr. Lough; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 28 [26] 426; Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 29, 565; Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 6, 1068; Q. Mr. A. Grove; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *July* 13, 1564

Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, Q. Mr. Woods; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 13 [28] 770; Amendt. and Debate in Com. of *Supply Aug* 18 [28] 1559, &c.

Trades Unions and Wage Earners, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. Burt *May* 28 [24] 1410

Truck Act, Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 26 [26] 225

Unemployed—Sheffield, &c., Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 22 [26] 10

Labour Minister Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Ernest Spencer; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 452

2R. negatived *May* 2 [24] 170

Labourers' Cottages in Ireland (see under IRELAND)

Labourers' (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill

c. Intro., Mr. T. P. O'Connor; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 451

[Dropped]

Labourers (Ireland) Acts (Extension to Fishermen) Bill

c. Intro., Sir T. Esmonde; Read 1° *July* 13 [26] 1656

[Dropped]

Laches of Trustees

Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 14 [25] 1095

Ladies' Gallery (see under *Parliament*)

LAMBERT, Mr. G., *Devon, South Molton*

Church Patronage Bill, 2R. [24] 150

Estate Duty [24] 239

Foreign Meat Bill, Intro. [22] 786

Ground Game Act (1880) Extension Bill, Intro. [22] 786

Honours, Bestowal of, Res. [24] 413

LAMBERT, Mr. G.—*cont.*
Industrial and Provident Societies (Purchase of Fee Simple) Bill, Intro. [24] 410
Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, 2R. [24] 721
Poor Law Amendment Bill, Intro. [23] 748

LAMINGTON, Lord
Franco-Siamese Question [27] 333
Trout Fishing (Scotland) Bill, Pres. [24] 453; 2R., 749, 1365, 1366; Com., 1505

Lamp Oils (see *Petroleum Acts*)

Lancashire Charities
Q. Mr. Snape; A. Mr. F. S. Stevenson *July* 2 [26] 692

Lancashire Local Courts
Q. Mr. W. Long; A. Mr. G. Russell *April* 26 [23] 1429

Land Acts (*Ireland*) (see under title IRELAND)

Land Law (Ireland) and Purchase of Land (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Clancy; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 451
[Dropped]

Land Registry
Report, July 26 [27] 997

Land Tax Commissioners (see under title *Customs, Excise, and Inland Revenue*)

Land Tenure (Ireland) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Kilbride; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 449
Read 2° *April* 11 [23] 114
Com.; R.P. *April* 12, 306; *Aug* 9 [28] 549
[Dropped]

Land Transfer Bill
l. Pres., Lord Chancellor; Read 1ª *April* 12 [23] 182
Read 2ª *April* 24, 1207
Com.; Reported, and Re-com. to Standing Com. *May* 1 [24] 1
Reported from the Standing Com. *May* 8, 577
[Dropped]

Land Values (Taxation by Local Authorities) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Naoroji; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 456
Withdrawn *July* 18 [27] 332

Land Values, Taxes on
Qs. Mr. Dalziel, Mr. H. L. W. Lawson; As. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 23 [23] 1103

Landseer's Picture "A Dialogue at Waterloo"
Q. Mr. Thornton; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 20 [29] 22

LANSDOWNE, Marquess of
Indian Cotton Duties [27] 490, 492
Indian Mints, Closing of [26] 534, 541, 550
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [28] 725, 726

Larceny Act Amendment Bill
l. Pres., Lord Herschell; Read 1ª *June* 26 [26] 216
Read 2ª *July* 5, 1060
Com.; Reported, &c. *July* 9, 1186
Reported from Standing Com. *July* 10, 1286
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 12, 1446
c. Read 1° *July* 27 [27] 1220
Withdrawn *Aug* 13 [28] 888

LAUDERDALE, Earl of
Von Krause's Petition [23] 1404

Laundries (see under *Labour Department*)

LAW AND JUSTICE AND POLICE
Assizes Relief Act, Q. Mr. P. Williams; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 23 [23] 1090
Balfour Companies (see that title)
Balfour, Jabez (see that title)
Bankruptcy (see that title)
Bell's Match Girls' Strike—Case before Mr. Mead, Qs. Mr. Macdonald; As. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 19 [22] 579; *April* 16 [23] 467
Bryant and May's Strike—Prosecution of Amelia Gifford, Q. Mr. Macdonald; A. Mr. G. Russell *May* 10 [24] 810; Q. Mr. Macdonald; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 28, 1402
Cab Drivers, Prosecutions against, Qs. Mr. Lough, Mr. Bartley; As. Mr. G. Russell *April* 26 [23] 1419
Cab Strike—Prosecution of Boby, Q. Mr. Lough; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 3 [26] 788
Children, Imprisonment of, in Holloway Prison, Qs. Mr. Pickersgill, Mr. Picton; As. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 13 [22] 150; Q. Mr. Pickersgill; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 23 [23] 1099
"*Cobb* v. *The Great Western Railway Company*," Q. Sir S. King; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 12 [25] 907
Committals for Trial at West Ham, Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 23 [29] 350
Convict Kelsall. Q. Mr. Roby; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 26 [26] 240

[*cont.*

LAW AND JUSTICE AND POLICE—cont.

Convictions, Records of, Qs. Mr. Ernest Spencer, Mr. Hanbury; As. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 30 [22] 1001

Cornwall Police Court Procedure—"*Pridham* v. *Jennings*," Qs. Mr. Owen; As. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 19 [22] 567; *Mar* 22, 861

County Courts—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Mar* 15 [22] 376

Criminal Court of Appeal, Qs. Mr. Hopwood; As. Mr. Asquith *May* 8 [24] 606; *Aug* 14 [28] 998
References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 17 [28] 1445, &c.

Cruelty to Animals
Aquarium Lions—Judge's Decision, Q. Sir D. Macfarlane; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 25 [24] 1277
Ball, George, Sentence on, for Cruelty to a Horse, Q. Mr. Cobb; As. Mr. Asquith *May* 29 [24] 1539
Bullock, Cruelty to, at Gloucester, Q. Sir W. Wedderburn; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 21 [25] 1633
Wynn, Sir W. W.—Cruelty to a Horse, Qs. Mr. A. C. Morton; As. Mr. Asquith *April* 30 [23] 1673; *May* 31 [25] 38

Cruelty to Children — Elizabeth Saunders Q. Mr. P. Williams; A. Sir J. Rigby *July* 27 [27] 1142; Q. Mr. P. Williams; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 31, 1398

Cumberland Assizes and Sessions, Qs. Mr. J. W. Lowther; As. Mr. Asquith *July* 12 [26] 1472

Daly, John, Release of, Qs. Mr. J. O'Connor, Mr. W. Redmond; As. Mr. Asquith *May* 25 [24] 1283

Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, Return pres. *April* 16 [23] 592

Dynamite Prisoners, Res., in Debate in reply to *Queen's Speech*, *Mar* 13 [22] 221

Essex Fishermen, Alleged Piracy by, Qs. Mr. Dodd, Major Rasch; As. Mr. Bryce *June* 21 [25] 1641

First Offenders, Treatment of, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 16 [28] 1225

Guildhall, Sittings of the High Court, Q. Mr. Greene; A. Mr. G. Russell *April* 19 [23] 826

Herz, Dr. Cornelius, Q. Mr. Scott-Montagu; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 14 [28] 998

High Seas, Offences on, Q. Mr. T. Chamberlayne; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 24 [29] 416

Holmfirth County Courts, Q. Mr. H. J. Wilson; A. Sir J. Rigby *July* 10 [26] 1309

Identification of Criminals, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 26 [26] 237

Irish Haymakers, Attack on, at Barnet, Qs. Mr. Weir, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Sexton; As. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 7 [28] 261; Qs. Mr. Weir, Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 14, 985

Judges at Race Meetings, Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Sir J. Rigby *May* 10 [24] 794; Qs. Mr. Hanbury; As. Mr. R. T. Reid *June* 5 [25] 428; Qs. Mr. Hanbury, Mr. Darling; As. Mr. R. T. Reid *June* 8, 691

[*cont.*

LAW AND JUSTICE AND POLICE—cont.

Judicial Statistics (England and Wales), Copy pres. *Aug* 16 [28] 1355

Lancashire Local Courts, Q. Mr. W. Long; A. Mr. G. Russell *April* 26 [23] 1429

Law Faculty for London University, Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Sir W. Harcourt *Aug* 10 [28] 562

Law Officers of the Crown—Fees, Private Practice, &c., Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Sir W. Harcourt *Mar* 19 [22] 585; Qs. Mr. P. Williams, Mr. Hanbury, Mr. G. Murray; As. Sir W. Harcourt, Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 30 [23] 1682; Q. Mr. P. Williams; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 1 [24] 37; Q. Mr. P. Williams; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 4, 378; Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 22 [26] 7; Q. Mr. P. Williams; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 29, 575; Q. Mr. Darling; A. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 2, 695; Q. Mr. P. Williams; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 10, 1298; Q. Captain Grice-Hutchinson; A. Mr. G. Russell *May* 31 [25] 10
References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Mar* 15 [22] 368
Res. (Mr. Hanbury) *Mar* 29 [22] 941

Leigh, Alleged Wrongful Imprisonment at, Q. Mr. Woods; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 13 [28] 764

Liverpool City Recorder—Remarks During the Trial of a Female Prisoner, Q. Mr. S. Smith; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 1 [24] 28

Liverpool—Houses of Ill-Repute, Q. Mr. S. Smith; A. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 22 [22] 858

Long Sentences, Q. Mr. Hopwood; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 25 [26] 134; Q. Mr. Howell; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 3, 782

Lordship of Appeal—Appointment, Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; A. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 12 [26] 1486

Lunacy Laws—"*Commissioners in Lunacy* v. *Sherrard*," Q. Mr. Labouchere; A. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 19 [22] 584

Magistracy
Appointment Fees, Q. Mr. Farquharson; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 10 [23] 11; Q. Sir J. Kinloch; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *April* 12, 190; Q. Mr. Leese; A. Mr. Bryce *May* 25 [24] 1281; Q. Mr. Brunner; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 28, 1417; References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 23 [29] 396, &c.
Return pres. *April* 19 [23] 955

Appointments, Q. Mr. Dodd; A. Mr. G. Russell *April* 9 [22] 1575; Qs. Mr. A. C. Morton, Mr. Maclure; As. Mr. Asquith *April* 12 [23] 207; Qs. Mr. Dodd; As. Mr. Asquith *April* 30, 1665; Q. Mr. Dodd; A. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 17 [27] 178
Appointments Since May 5th, 1893, Return pres. *May* 2 [24] 200
Barnsley—Case of Drunkenness, Q. Mr. H. J. Wilson; A. Mr. G. Russell *May* 24 [24] 1178
Buckell, Mr. Robert, Qs. Mr. Powell Williams, Mr. Bartley, Mr. Tomlinson; As. Mr. Asquith *April* 12 [23] 189

[*cont.*

LAW AND JUSTICE AND POLICE—cont.

- *Magistracy*—cont.
  - *Chairmen of District Councils*, Q. Mr. Rankin; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 12 [26] 1475; Q. Mr. Baldwin; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 26 [27] 1003; Q. Mr. Rankin; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 3 [28] 5
  - *Harewood End Magistrates' Clerk*, Q. Mr. Brynmor Jones; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 12 [23] 182
  - *Hertfordshire—Clerks of the Peace*, Q. Mr. Dodd; A. Mr. G. Russell *April* 19 [23] 826
  - *Justices* (*Fees*), Return pres. *April* 19 [23] 955
  - *Kirkconnell, Mr.*, Qs. Mr. Ainsworth, Mr. J. W. Lowther; As. Mr. G. Russell *May* 10 [24] 760
  - *London Police Magistrates—Case of Elizabeth Saunders*, Q. Mr. P. Williams; A. Sir J. Rigby *July* 27 [27] 1142; Q. Mr. P. Williams; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 31, 1398
  - *Magistrates' Clerks*, Q. Mr. T. Owen; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 21 [25] 1627
    References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Mar* 15 [22] 366
  - *Property Qualifications*, Q. Mr. A. C. Morton; A. Sir W. Harcourt *Mar* 20 [22] 702
  - *Wigan—Alleged Corrupt Practices by Mr. R. Johnson*, Qs. Mr. Legh, Mr. Tomlinson; As. Mr. Bryce *Mar* 16 [22] 435
- *Marriage Law* (*United Kingdom*), Return pres. *Aug* 22 [29] 344
- *Merchandise Marks Act and Commissioners of Customs—Law Officers of the Crown, Opinions of*, Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 7 [25] 564
- *Metropolitan Police Courts*
  - *Business*, Q. Mr. J. Stuart; A. Mr. G. Russell *May* 31 [25] 10; Q. Mr. Whitmore; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 25 [26] 120; Q. Mr. J. Stuart; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 6 [26] 1078
  - *Cell Accommodation*, Q. Mr. Pickersgill; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 14 [25] 1090
  - *Clerks*, Qs. Mr. H. S. Wright, Mr. Stuart-Wortley; As. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 15 [22] 343
  - *Magistrates* (see under sub-heading *Magistracy—London Police Magistrates*)
  - References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Mar* 29 [22] 993
- *Non-Payment of Rates, Imprisonment for*, Q. Mr. Hopwood; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 23 [27] 664
- *Nottingham Execution*, Qs. Mr. Ballantine; As. Mr. Asquith *April* 2 [22] 1112; *April* 6, 1510; Q. Mr. Ballantine; A. Mr. G. Russell *April* 13 [23] 335; References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 17 [28] 1445, &c.
- *Partridges' Eggs, Sentence for Stealing*, Q. Mr. Cobb; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 5 [25] 406
- *Police*
  - *Clerkenwell—Obstructing the Police*, Qs. Mr. K. Hardie, Mr. J. Rowlands; As. Mr. G. Russell *Aug* 23 [29] 358
  - *Counties and Boroughs*, Paper pres.; to be printed *April* 23 [23] 1204

[*cont.*

LAW AND JUSTICE AND POLICE—cont.

- *Police*—cont.
  - *Dismissal of Henry Kemp*, Q. Mr. Schwann; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 16 [27] 21
  - *Dockyard Police Transfers*, Q. Mr. Kearley; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 7 [24] 470
  - *Evidence of Drunkenness—Cases before the Barnsley Magistrates*, Q. Mr. H. J. Wilson; A. Mr. G. Russell *May* 24 [24] 1178
  - *Ex-Inspector Ruff*, Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Mr. G. Russell *May* 24 [24] 1163
  - *Fatal Accidents—Police Removing Dead Bodies*, Q. Mr. Lough; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 28 [24] 1401
  - *General Election of 1892—Police Duty*, Q. Mr. Arnold-Forster; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 7 [24] 473
  - *Government Factories*, Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 31 [25] 31
  - *Metropolitan—C Division*, Q. Mr. R. Cooke; A. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 20 [22] 690
  - *Metropolitan Police Boots*, Qs. Captain Norton, Mr. J. Rowlands, Mr. Hanbury; As. Mr. Asquith *June* 21 [25] 1640; Qs. Captain Norton; As. Mr. Asquith *June* 25, 129; *June* 29 [26] 576; *July* 6, 1074; *July* 12, 1467; *July* 16 [27] 28; *July* 19, 377; References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 18 [28] 1591, &c.
  - *Metropolitan Police Uniforms*, Q. Mr. E. H. Bayley; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 12 [23] 187
  - *Metropolitan Police—Re-Vaccination*, Q. Mr. Hopwood; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 3 [28] 9
  - *Procession in Whitechapel*, Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 3 [24] 234
  - *Protection Duty*, Q. Captain Grice-Hutchinson; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 17 [27] 168
  - *Social Democrats and the Police*, Qs. Mr. K. Hardie, Mr. Webster; As. Mr. Asquith *July* 19 [27] 374
  - *Warwickshire Late Chief Constable*, Qs. Mr. Cobb; As. Mr. Asquith *May* 1 [24] 35; *June* 7 [25] 591; *Aug* 13 [28] 761
  - *Whiting, Constable*, Q. Mr. W. F. D. Smith; A. Mr. G. Russell *April* 26 [23] 1422
  - *Wigan Public Meetings*, Q. Mr. Woods; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 13 [28] 770
  - *Worcester Police as Firemen*, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 31 [25] 24
- *Police Stations—Aldershot and Farnborough*, Q. Mr. Jeffreys; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 5 [22] 1446
- *Prisons*
  - *Bridewell, London*, Q. Sir C. Cameron; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 3 [24] 223
  - *Committee*, Q. Mr. A. C Morton; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 19 [23] 853; Q. Mr. Pickersgill; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 23, 1100; Qs. Mr. Gully, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Dillon; As. Mr. Asquith *May* 28 [24] 1411; Q. Mr. Spicer; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 1 [25] 169; Q. Mr. Hopwood; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 11, 812

[*cont.*

LAW AND JUSTICE AND POLICE—cont.

Prisons—cont.

Convict Prison Officials, Q. Viscount Cranborne; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 14 [25] 1089

Dartmoor Officials' Married Quarters, Q. Mr. Luttrell; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 12 [25] 898

Female Prisoners—Death at Battersea Park Police Station, Q. Mr. Pickersgill; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 11 [25] 808

Government Contracts and Prison-Made Goods (see under title *Government Contracts*)

Kirkdale Gaol, Site of, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 15 [22] 315; Qs. Colonel Nolan, Sir G. Baden-Powell; As. Mr. Asquith *June* 28 [26] 450

Lady Visitors, Q. Mr. Pickersgill; A. Mr. G. Russell *April* 13 [23] 331; Q. Mr. Pickersgill; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 17, 631

Officers' Pensions, Q. Mr. Mildmay; A. Mr. G. Russell *April* 26 [23] 1453

Officers' Promotion, Q. Colonel Lockwood; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 10 [24] 753

Sack-Making, Q. Colonel Sandys; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 10 [23] 14

Warders, Qs. Mr. W. Long; As. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 30 [22] 1004; *July* 12 [26] 1484

Prisons, Convict (England, &c.), Copy pres. *Aug* 16 [28] 1355

Prisons (England and Wales), Copy pres. *Aug* 16 [28] 1355

Quarter Sessions—Barristers Practising before their Fathers, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 30 [27] 1266

Rewards for the Arrest of Murderers, Q. General Goldsworthy; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 19 [25] 1464

Royal Liver Society, Action against, at Birmingham, Q. Mr. Jacks; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 14 [25] 1070

Smith, John, Case of, Q. Mr. G. Palmer; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 9 [26] 1193

Truck Act, Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 26 [26] 225

Vaccination Prosecutions, Q. Mr. Channing; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 30 [27] 1247

Wales

Boxing Contest at Aberdare, Q. Mr. D. Thomas; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 1 [25] 177

Cardiganshire Chief Constable and Mr. Lewis, Q. Mr. Griffith-Boscawen; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 3 [28] 27

Culliford, Emily, Case of, Q. Mr. Burnie; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 14 [28] 1000

Drunken Publicans, Prosecution of, Q. Sir G. Osborne Morgan; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 10 [23] 8

Newcastle-Emlyn County Court Bailiff, Assault on, Q. Mr. Griffith-Boscawen; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 23 [23] 1076

Trade Dispute and the Police, Qs. Mr. Randell; As. Mr. Asquith *July* 12 [26] 1477; *July* 16 [27] 22; *July* 17, 177; *July* 19, 380; Qs. Mr. Randell, Major Jones; As. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 3 [28] 21

Winter Assizes Acts, 1876 and 1877, Copies pres. *July* 24 [27] 896

Law Library, Four Courts (Ireland)—Advances

Com. *April* 11 [23] 171; Reported *April* 12, 306

Law Library, Four Courts (Ireland) Bill

c. Intro., Mr. J. Morley; Read 1° *April* 2 [22] 1115

Read 2° *April* 10 [23] 111

Com.; Reported *April* 16, 585

As amended, Con.; Read 3°, and passed *April* 19, 955

l. Read 1ª *April* 20, 964

Read 2ª *April* 24, 1210

Com.; Reported *April* 26, 1404

Read 3ª, and passed *April* 27, 1574

Royal Assent *June* 1

[57° Vic. c. 4]

Law of Inheritance Amendment Bill

l. Pres., Lord Herschell; Read 1ª *April* 9 [22] 1566

2R. negatived *April* 26 [23] 1385

LAWRENCE, Mr. W. F., *Liverpool, Abercromby*

African Tariff Dues—Sultan of Zanzibar and the Berlin Act [24] 1540

British East Africa Company [29] 279, 374

Finance Bill, Com. [25] 1390

Liverpool Post Office Contract [29] 278

Oil Rivers Protectorate and the Royal Niger Company [26] 229

Supply

British East Africa Company [27] 1315, 1322

Liverpool Post Office [24] 1252

Uganda [22] 397, 398, 402; [25] 244, 247, 249

Uganda—British East Africa Company's Treaties [23] 1091

LAWSON, Mr. H. L. W., *Gloucester, Cirencester*

Army Estimates—Yeomanry [26] 867

Cambridge Corporation Bill, Con. [24] 359

Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, 2R [27] 906; Com. [28] 34

Horses—Cruelty to Van Horses in London [28] 16

Land Values, Taxes on [23] 1103

Leaseholders (Purchase of Fee Simple) Bill, Intro. [23] 1068

Millbank Prison Site [23] 1422

National Gallery [26] 793

Period of Qualification and Elections Bill, 2R. [24] 91

Thames and Severn Canal [24] 804

Town Holdings Bill, Intro. [22] 451

LAWSON, Mr. J. Grant, *York, N.R., Thirsk*
Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 489, 647; Com., *cl.* 1, 1223, 1224, 1584; [25] 334; *cl.* 2, 453, 458, 500, 522, 525, 624, 625, 632, 633; *cl.* 3, 694, 725, 727, 732, 742; *cl.* 4, 858, 859, 861, 866, 871; *cl.* 5, 928, 932, 947, 966, 970, 983, 989, 1103, 1106, 1113, 1155; *cl.* 6, 1231, 1232, 1240, 1244, 1246, 1368, 1376; *cl.* 7, 1425; *cl.* 8, 1516; *cl.* 9, 1528; *cl.* 10, 1657, 1660, 1664, 1665, 1670; *cl.* 11, 1680, 1681; *cl.* 13, 1689, 1691, 1692, 1696; *cl.* 14, 1707; [26] 30, 31, 32; *cl.* 16, 92; *cl.* 17, 140; *cl.* 18, 194; *cl.* 24, 332, 333, 334; *cl.* 31, 583, 611; *New cls.*, 741; Con., 1491, 1495, 1516, 1527, 1537, 1576, 1578, 1581, 1612, 1616, 1618, 1641; [27] 33, 34, 55, 81
Parochial Electors (Registration Acceleration) Bill, Com. [26] 872, 873, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1155, 1159, 1163
Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Con. [24] 1642, 1646, 1654
Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [23] 685
Supply—Voluntary Schools [22] 800, 802, 831
Ways and Means—Financial Statement [23] 1248, 1249, 1278

LAWSON, Sir W., *Cumberland, Cockermouth*
Army Estimates—Yeomanry [26] 871
Board School Lessons on Drink [29] 422
British East Africa Company [29] 375
Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill, 2R. [29] 414
Derby Day—Adjournment of the House [25] 41
Finance Bill, Com. [26] 291
Honours, Bestowal of, Res. [24] 410
House of Commons (Vacating of Seats), Select Com. [26] 1164, 1166
Irish Whisky Permits [29] 380
Licensing Questions at Stornoway [24] 761
Liquor Traffic (Local Veto) (England) Bill, Intro. [22] 458
Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Lords Amendts. [29] 306
Occasional Licences [22] 1244
Public Houses—Coupons for Children [25] 1355
Scotch Procurator Fiscals and Licensing Courts [25] 167
Supply—Uganda [25] 243
Ways and Means, Com. [29] 130, 145, 147

LEA, Sir T., *Londonderry, S.*
Business of the House [27] 288
Increase of Lunacy in Ireland [22] 1456
Londonderry Asylum [27] 1118, 1270
Rainey's School, Magherafelt [23] 464
Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [22] 460
Tenants Arbitration Bill, Com. [27] 1056

Lead-Poisoning—Death at Greenwich Workhouse.
Qs. Mr. Howard, Mr. Flynn, Mr. J. Burns; As. Mr. Asquith *July* 26 [27] 1022

Leasehold Property Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Field; Read 1° *April* 13 [23] 427
[Dropped]

Leaseholders (Purchase of Fee Simple) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. H. L. W. Lawson; Read 1° *April* 20 [23] 1068
[Dropped]

LECHMERE, Sir E. A. H., *Worcestershire, Evesham*
Agricultural Depression [23] 224
Market Gardeners' Compensation Bill, Intro. [22] 460

Leeds Barracks (see under title *Army*)

Leeds Post Office (see under title *Post Office*)

LEESE, Mr. J. F., *Lancashire, N.E., Accrington*
Agricultural Statistics, Collection of [24] 584
Magistrates' Appointment Fees [24] 1281
Period of Qualification and Elections Bill, 2R. [24] 98

LEFEVRE, RIGHT HON. G. J. SHAW- (President of the Local Government Board), *Bradford, Central*
Ashton-under-Lyne Sewerage Scheme [25] 793; [28] 993
Barnet Local Board District [23] 1425
Birkenhead Guardians and the National Dock Labourers' Union [23] 1102
Brentwood School (*see* sub-heading Pauper School Children)
Building Bye-Laws in the Metropolis [27] 1256
Census [22] 445; [29] 165, 179
Cholera Precautions [27] 175
City Rate [27] 1570
County Council Boundary Committees [25] 286
County Councils and Light Railways [26] 1488
County of London and Main Roads Expenditure Return [25] 685
Dairy Industry Select Com. [24] 793
District and Parish Councils
  Ballots [29] 12
  Burial Boards [23] 1442
  Chairmen and Justices of the Peace [26] 1475; [27] 1003

[*cont.*

LEFEVRE, Right Hon. G. J. SHAW- —*cont.*

- District and Parish Councils—*cont.*
  - Guardians [22] 1448; [23] 1224
  - Instructions Sent to Local Authorities [22] 1577
  - Local Government Board Rules [26] 424, 1299; [27] 797
  - London Vestry Elections [22] 335
  - New Parish Boundaries [23] 1099
  - Overseers and Highway Surveyors [22] 344
  - Parochial Officials [22] 328
  - Peers [26] 575
  - Register [24] 1162
  - Returning Officers [25] 24, 1342; [26] 12, 230
  - Roadside Grazing Rights [26] 117
  - Rural District Meetings [27] 172
  - Urban District Councils—Section 33 of the Act [25] 912
  - Vestry Meetings [23] 1446
  - Voters' Lists [26] 6
- District Boards of Works [25] 901
- Doyle Union [24] 789
- East London Water Bill, 2R. [22] 1395
- Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, Qs. [23] 224, 634; [28] 428, 479; 2R. [27] 813, 816, 819, 820, 821, 905, 935; Motion for Select Com., 946; Instr. to Com. [28] 36, 37, 39; Com., *cl.* 1, 43, 47, 53, 61, 67, 70, 71, 74, 76, 77, 79, 82, 95, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 106, 107, 109, 110, 111, 112, 180, 184, 187, 191, 192, 194, 198, 212, 214, 217, 221, 222, 224, 373, 375, 376, 378, 379, 382, 383, 393, 396, 397, 398, 399; *cl.* 3, 400, 401; *New cls.*, 402, 403; Con., 779, 781, 782, 783, 784
- Farm Assessments in Suffolk [27] 803
- Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 554, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 639, 640, 644, 650
- Food Adulteration, Committee on [24] 1391
- Forest Gate School Poisoning [24] 231, 598
- Greenwich District Board [26] 1475
- Hackney Union Vaccination Officer [25] 31
- Hampstead Sanitary Regulations [26] 1193, 1471
- Hong Kong Plague [26] 444
- Horses, Led [23] 625
- Horwell's Endowed School — Election of Trustee [22] 305
- Housing of the Working Classes (Borrowing Powers) Bill, Intro. [27] 1027; 2R. [28] 366
- Housing of the Working Classes—Standing Order No. 183a [28] 256
- Library Commissioners [26] 1483
- Liverpool Insanitary Houses [24] 469
- Liverpool Ward Boundaries [24] 475, 753, 768, 1183, 1629, 1630, 1632
- Local Government Act, 1894
  - Copies of [22] 151
  - Translation of into Welsh [22] 1112; [27] 804
  - (*See* also under sub-heading District and Parish Councils)
- Local Government Board Inspectors [29] 356
- London Bakehouses [22] 1507

[*cont.*

LEFEVRE, Right Hon. G. J. SHAW- —*cont.*

- London County Council (General Powers) Bill, Con. [24] 698
- London County Council (Tower Bridge Southern Approach) Bill, 2R. [22] 1239
- London Streets and Buildings Bill, Con. [27] 9
- Manorial Rights and Poor Rates [24] 1006
- Metropolis—Owners of Land Return [24] 232
- Middlesex Records [24] 215
- Ministers of Religion as Poor Law Guardians [24] 475
- Movable Dwellings Bill [29] 387
- Newton Abbot Workhouse Inquiry [24] 596; [25] 39, 1621; [27] 1117
- Oakington Overseers [23] 1678
- Old Age Provident Pensions Bill, 2R. [22] 1351, 1354, 1357
- Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, 2R. [24] 726, 731
- Parliamentary Registers [23] 1427
- Parochial Electors (Registration Acceleration) Bill [23] 859; Motion for Leave, 864; 2R., 1779; [24] 920; Com. [26] 872, 873, 874, 1152, 1153, 1158, 1160, 1162, 1163; 3R., 1390; Lords Amendts. [27] 1218
- Parochial Registration [24] 21, 761
- Pauper Children
  - Brentwood School [23] 1416; [25] 915; [26] 12, 121, 796; [27] 1122
  - District Schools [24] 1161; [26] 443; [28] 31
  - Epidemics among School Children [25] 284
  - Forest Gate School [24] 231, 598
  - Inquiry [28] 478; [29] 278, 421
  - Lady Inspectors of District Schools [28] 31
  - Number of [27] 1240
- Period of Qualification and Elections Bill, 2R. [24] 130, 132
- Police and Sanitary Regulations Committee [22] 1243
- Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Com. [24] 1092
- Private Bill Reports [23] 1442
- Public Buildings (London) Bill, 2R. [22] 1315
- Quarantine [22] 957
- Rabies, Treatment of [26] 13
- Railway and Canal Traffic Bill, Com. [28] 795
- Rating of Machinery Bill, 2R. [24] 740
- Registrar General's Report [24] 598
- Registrars of Births as Political Agents [22] 1440
- Rhyl Poor Relief Administration [23] 1407
- River Eye, Pollution of [28] 254
- River Ffrwd, Drowning in [28] 758
- Ruabon, Insanitary Condition of [23] 610
- Scilly Islands and the Local Government Acts [25] 591
- Sewers, Suffocation in [24] 597
- Small-Pox at Rawtenstall [25] 799
- Stage Play Licences [24] 790

[*cont.*

LEFEVRE, Right Hon. G. J. SHAW- —*cont.*
- Supply
  - Extension of Admiralty Buildings [22] 986, 987, 991
  - Kew Gardens, &c. [22] 974
  - Poor Law Inspectors in Wales [28] 1558
  - Registrar General of Births, &c. [29] 35, 37, 43, 44, 45, 319, 321
  - South Kensington Museum [22] 1069, 1070, 1072, 1073, 1075
  - Tuberculosis Commission Report [22] 153, 341
- Sussex Parliamentary Electors' Return [23] 621
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [27] 463
- Tuberculosis Commission Report [24] 783, 1402; [26] 565; [27] 548; [28] 767
- Unemployed—Sheffield, &c. [26] 11
- Unification of London [24] 765; [27] 382; [28] 1251
- Vehicular Lighting Regulations [23] 1101
- Wandsworth and Clapham Union—Poor Relief under False Pretences [23] 333
- West Ham Town Clerkships [27] 361
- Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association [29] 155

LEGH, Mr. T. W., *Lancashire, S.W., Newton*
- Business of the House [27] 285
- Egypt—Corvée [26] 1198
- Mines (Eight Hours) Bill [26] 1195; 2R. [23] 1350; Com. [28] 805, 815, 816, 855
- Parochial Electors (Registration Acceleration) Bill, Lords Amendts. [27] 1218
- Supply
  - Diplomatic and Consular Buildings [22] 1082
  - Metalliferous Mines Inspector—Mr. Leck [27] 1458
  - Sir Mortimer Durand [27] 1340
- Wigan Magistrate—Alleged Corrupt Practice by Mr. R. Johnson [22] 435
- Winwick Rectory Act [26] 1082

LEIGH, Lord
- Cambridge Corporation Bill, 3R. [25] 1323
- Industrial Schools Bill, 2R. [26] 1178; 3R. [27] 790

LEIGH, Mr. J., *Stockport*
- Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, 2R. [24] 731

LEIGHTON, Mr. S., *Shropshire, Oswestry*
- Brynmawr Postmaster and Political Organisations [27] 160
- Burial Grounds in Wales [26] 1463
- Coed-y-Pain School [24] 1169
- Dissenting Endowments [25] 1094
- Education Code [23] 337

LEIGHTON, Mr. S.—*cont.*
- Established Church (Wales) Bill, Motion for Leave [23] 1777
- Free Books in Schools [25] 295
- Malta, Fever at [27] 171
- Matabele Wounded, Alleged Ill-Treatment of [24] 1411
- Parochial Electors (Registration Acceleration) Bill, Com. [26] 1155, 1162
- Rating of Machinery Bill, 2R. [24] 736
- Royal Commissions, Cost of [28] 239
- Tea, and the Increase of Insanity [26] 455
- Welsh Cathedrals [24] 1407; [25] 299
- Welsh Tithe Disputes [24] 1393

LENG, Sir J., *Dundee*
- Acts of Parliament, Dilatory Publication of [27] 359
- Ambulance Instruction [23] 824
- American Mail Route
  - Distances between Ports [22] 1505
  - Queenstown and Moville [22] 1506
- Atlantic, Derelicts in [22] 1100
- Canadian Cattle Importation [24] 1619, 1622; [26] 1473
- Carnoustie Police District [25] 672
- Chelsea Hospital Funds [27] 670
- Crimean and Indian Mutiny Pensioners [22] 435
- Dundee Tailoring Trade [22] 678
- Grocers' Certificates (Scotland) Abolition Bill, Intro. [22] 788
- Indian Jute Mills—Night Work [25] 180
- May Island Navigation Difficulties [25] 674
- Naval Ex-Officers' Uniforms [23] 611, 612
- Patent Agents Bill, 2R. [22] 1374
- Postmen and the Queen's Birthday [22] 1587
- Science and Art Examinations [25] 1207
- Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [22] 1180
- Supply
  - Post Office Buildings [24] 931
  - Uganda [22] 400
- Ways and Means—Financial Statement [23] 1165; Com., 1166
- Wine and Beerhouse Acts Amendment Bill, Intro. [24] 1364

LENNOX, Right Hon. Lord W. G., *Sussex, Chichester*
- Members of Parliament—System of Pairing [22] 1519

LEON, Mr. H. S., *Bucks, N.*
- District and Parish Councils [25] 912
- Income Tax—Building Societies [25] 34

Level Crossings (see under *Railways*)

LEVEN AND MELVILLE, Earl of
- Indian Mints, Closing of [26] 525, 540

[*cont.*

LEWIS, Mr. J. Herbert, *Flint, &c.*
- Business of the House, Res. [28] 1269
- Established Church (Wales) Bill [23] 1761, 1762
- Forestry Education in Wales [27] 561
- Great Western Railway (No. 1) Bill, Instr. to Com. [25] 1068
- Home Rule for Scotland, Res. [22] 1300
- Land Tax Commissioners in Wales [25] 810
- Local Government Act—Translation of into Welsh [22] 1112; [27] 804
- Mineral Rights [26] 134
- Nonconformist Ministers [26] 442
- Public Record Office [29] 406
- Stage Play Licences [24] 790
- Supply
  - Agricultural Education [28] 1551
  - Census—Welsh-Speaking Population [29] 41, 321, 323
  - Central Museum in Wales [29] 216, 217
  - Public Education [29] 201
  - Science and Art Department [29] 92, 95
  - Slavery in Africa [29] 330
  - Woods and Forests [28] 1582, 1585
- Ways and Means, Com. [29] 137

Libel Bill

c. Intro., Sir A. Rollit; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 457

[Dropped]

Liberator Building Society (see under *Balfour Companies*)

Liberia, Extradition Treaty with
- *Copy pres. Mar* 19 [22] 676

Licensing
- *Coupons for Children in Public Houses*, Q. Sir W. Lawson; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 18 [25] 1355
- *Licence Fees—Retail Licensed Victuallers*, Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 10 [24] 810
- "*Hall by the Sea*," *Margate—Extension of Licence*, Q. Mr. Cobb; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 10 [28] 550
- *Irish Questions* (see under title IRELAND)
- *Legislation* (see under *Liquor Traffic* (*Local Veto*) *Bill*)
- *Magistrates' Clerks*, Q. Mr. T. Owen; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 21 [25] 1627
- *Occasional Licences*, Q. Sir W. Lawson; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 3 [22] 1244; Q. Sir W. Lawson; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 19 [23] 856
- *Publicans and Military Pensioners*, Qs. Mr. J. Burns, Mr. Jeffreys, Mr. Bartley; As. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Asquith, Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 5 [22] 1452
- *Scotch Questions* (see under title SCOTLAND)
- *Wales—Drunken Publicans, Prosecution of*, Q. Sir G. Osborne Morgan; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 10 [23] 8

Licensing Bill

l. Pres., Lord Norton; Read 1ª *July* 27 [27] 1110

Licensing Laws Amendment Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Tritton; Read 1° *May* 1 [24] 140

[Dropped]

Licensing Laws Amendment Bill

l. Pres., Lord Bishop of London; Read 1ª *June* 21 [25] 1619
- 2R. negatived *July* 5 [26] 921

Lifeboats
- Amendt. and Debate in Com. of *Supply*, *Aug* 18 [28] 1528, &c.
- *Ramsgate*, Q. Mr. E. H. Bayley; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 8 [25] 682

Life-Saving Apparatus (see under titles *Navy* and *Merchant Shipping*)

Light Dues, Committee on
- Qs. Sir M. H. Beach, Mr. G. Bowles, Sir A. Rollit; As. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 10 [28] 560; Q. Sir M. H. Beach; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 14, 991

Lighthouses
- *Electrical Communication with*, Q. Mr. P. FitzGerald; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 7 [25] 587
- *Illuminants*, Q. Mr. T. W. Russell; A. Mr. Burt *May* 24 [24] 1190
- *Income Tax on*, Q. and Obs. Lord Stanley of Alderley, Lord Playfair *July* 9 [26] 1172
- *Local Inspection*, Copy pres. *Mar* 12 [22] 127
- References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 18 [28] 1543, &c.
- *Scotch* and *Irish Questions* (see under SCOTLAND and IRELAND)
- *Start Point Fog Horn*, Q. Mr. Mildmay; A Mr. Bryce *July* 16 [27] 26
- *Vote for*, Con. in Com. *Aug* 17 [28] 1392

Light Railways (England and Wales) Bill

c. Intro., Major Rasch; Read 1° *Aug* 3 [28] 116

[Dropped]

Lightships
- *Electrical Communication with*, Q. Major Jones; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 3 [28] 23
- *The Smalls*, Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Mr. Mundella *Mar* 15 [22] 314

Limitation of Actions Bill

l. Pres., Lord Herschell; Read 1ª *April* 9 [22] 1565
- Read 2ª *April* 16 [23] 444
- Com.; Reported; Re-com. to Standing Com. *April* 24, 1205

[*cont.*

Limitation of Actions Bill—cont.
Reported from Standing Com. *May* 1 [24] 18
Amendts. reported *May* 4, 334
Order for 3R. read and discharged *May* 10, 749
Read 3ª, with Amendts., and passed *June* 5 [25] 394
c. Read 1° *June* 12, 991
2R. deferred *June* 18, 1430
Withdrawn *July* 18 [27] 332

Limited Liability Companies
Compounding for Stamp Duty, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 19 [27] 383

Lions, Ill-Treatment of
Q. Sir D. Macfarlane; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 25 [24] 1277

Liquor Legislation in the Manx Legislature
Q. Mr. Caine; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 18 [25] 1353

Liquor Traffic (Local Veto) (England) Bill
c. Intro., Sir W. Lawson; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 458
[Dropped]

Liquor Traffic (Local Veto) (England) Bill
Qs. Mr. Bartley, Mr. W. Johnston; As. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 24 [23] 1225; Qs. Mr. Bartley; As. Sir W. Harcourt, Mr. Speaker *May* 21 [24] 914; Q. Mr. T. W. Russell; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 7 [25] 595; Q. Mr. B. Davenport; A. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 19 [27] 385

Liquor Traffic (Local Veto) (Scotland) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. John Wilson; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 460
[Dropped]

Liquor Traffic (Local Veto) (Wales) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. B. Rowlands; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 455
[Dropped]

Lisbon Treaty Series (No. 9, 1894)
Copy pres. April 13 [23] 428

LITTLE, Mr. T. S., *Whitehaven*
Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill, 2R. [29] 408, 409, 410
Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [23] 1025
Supply—Southport Foreshores [28] 1540

LIVERPOOL
City Recorder, Q. Mr. S. Smith; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 1 [24] 28
Houses of Ill Repute in, Q. Mr. S. Smith; A. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 22 [22] 858
Insanitary Houses, Q. Mr. Forwood; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 7 [24] 468
Lairages (see under *Agriculture—Mersey Docks*)
Post Office (see under that title)
Ward Boundaries, Q. Mr. Forwood; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 7 [24] 475; Q. Mr. Snape; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 10, 753; Q. Mr. Long; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 10, 768; Q. Mr. Forwood; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 24, 1183
Debate on, *May* 29 [24] 1624

Liverpool Corporation Churches Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Snape; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 457
Withdrawn

LLOYD, Mr. Wilson, *Wednesbury*
Canal Tolls and Charges Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill, Con. [27] 1371
Labour Minister Bill, 2R. [24] 173
London County Council (General Powers) Bill, Con. [24] 1515
Naval Bolt and Nut Contracts [23] 971; [24] 1404
Tipton Rifle Range Fatality [28] 1226; [29] 280

LLOYD-GEORGE, Mr. D., *Carnarvon, &c.*
Census — Welsh-Speaking Population [29] 179
Criccieth Beach [28] 1254
Established Church (Wales) Bill [23] 220; Motion for Leave, 1690, 1691, 1692, 1694, 1696, 1697, 1699, 1700, 1713
Labour Correspondents [29] 169
Supply
  Agricultural Education in Wales, &c. [28] 1550
  Census—Welsh-Speaking Population [29] 33, 37, 38, 39, 41, 45, 319, 321
  Criccieth Beach [28] 1534, 1540, 1541
  Crofter Commission [29] 88
  House of Lords Offices [29] 272
  Land Commission [29] 106, 107
  Light Railways [28] 1422
  Poor Law Inspectors [28] 1558
  Report [29] 265
  Science and Art Department [29] 96
  Scotch Fisheries [29] 64
  Woods and Forests Commissioners [28] 1581, 1584
Ways and Means, Com. [29] 131, 138, 139

Loan Societies
Paper pres. June 22 [26] 23

Local Court of Bankruptcy (Ireland) Bill

c. Intro., Mr. M'Cartan ; Read 1° *April* 26 [23] 1551
Read 2° *June* 13 [25] 1052
Con. in Com., R.P. *June* 15, 1320
[Dropped]

Local Courts of Bankruptcy (Ireland) [Expenses]

c. Order for Com., read and discharged *Aug* 13 [28] 888

Local Government Act, 1888

Copies pres. April 10 [23] 112 ; *June* 12 [25] 992

Local Government Act, 1894

Q. Mr. H. Hobhouse ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 9 [26] 1194
Burial Boards, Q. Mr. C. Williams ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 26 [23] 1442
Charity Commissioners' New Duties, Qs. Mr. Dodd, Mr. J. W. Lowther ; As. Mr. Acland *Mar* 30 [22] 1002
Copies of, Q. Mr. J. E. Ellis ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Mar* 13 [22] 151
County Council Boundary Committees' Travelling Expenses, Q. Mr. Jacoby ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 4 [25] 286
District Councils, Q. Colonel Gunter ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 5 [22] 1448
London Vestry Elections, Q. Mr. Barrow ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Mar* 15 [22] 335
New District Councils, Q. Mr. Jeffreys ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 24 [23] 1223
Overseers and Highways Surveyors, Q. Mr. H. Hobhouse ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Mar* 15 [22] 344
Parish Boundaries, Q. Mr. Rankin ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 23 [23] 1099
Parish Councils, Q. Mr. Heneage ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 9 [22] 1577
Parish Council Register, Q. Mr. Brunner ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 24 [24] 1162
Parochial Officials, Q. Mr. Taylor ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Mar* 15 [22] 328
Peers—Parochial Electors' Registers, Q. Mr. Cornwallis ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 29 [26] 574
Returning Officers, Q. Mr. Wingfield-Digby ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 31 [25] 23 ; Q. Mr. Bigwood ; A. Mr. Shaw - Lefevre *June* 18, 1342
Section 33, Local Inquiry with regard to Application under, Q. Mr. Leon ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 12 [25] 912
Translation of into Welsh, Qs. Mr. Herbert Lewis ; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 2 [22] 1112 ; *July* 24 [27] 804
Vestry Meetings, Q. Mr. Thornton ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 26 [23] 1446
(Refer also under *District and Parish Councils*)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD

President—Mr. SHAW-LEFEVRE
Secretary—Sir W. FOSTER
Ashton-under-Lyne Sewerage Scheme, Qs. Mr. H. Sidebottom, Mr. Addison ; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 11 [25] 792 ; Q. Mr. Sidebotham ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 14 [28] 993
Bakehouses in London, Q. Mr. Barrow ; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 2 [22] 1106 ; Qs. Mr. Barrow, Dr. Farquharson, Mr. J. Burns ; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 6, 1507
Barnet Local Board District, Q. Mr. V. Gibbs ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 26 [23] 1425
Bedford Workhouse Inquiry, Q. Mr. Talbot ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 21 [29] 155
Birkenhead Guardians and the National Dock Labourers' Union, Q. Mr. M. Austin ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 23 [23] 1102
Brentwood School Scandal (see under sub-heading *Pauper Children*)
Cholera Precautions, Q. Mr. Heneage ; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 9 [22] 1584 ; Q. Mr. Heneage ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 17 [27] 175
Circular Letters, Return ordered *April* 19 [23] 956
City Rate, Q. Mr. A. Gibbs ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 2 [27] 1570
Compound Householder Voters, Q. Sir H. James ; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 10 [24] 761 ; Q. Mr. Bartley ; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 24, 1165
Copy pres. June 8 [25] 760
County Councils (see that title)
County of London and Main Roads Expenditure, Return, Q. Mr. Benn ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 8 [25] 685
Deaths (Starvation, &c.), Address for Return *June* 7 [25] 668
District and Parish Councils (see under titles *District and Parish Councils* and *Local Government Act*)
District Boards of Works, Q. Mr. C. Hobhouse ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 12 [25] 900
Doyle Unions, Q. Mr. Kenyon ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 10 [24] 789
Farm Assessments in Suffolk, Q. Mr. Everett ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 24 [27] 802
Forest Gate School (see under sub-heading *Pauper Children*)
Greenwich District Board, Q. Mr. Darling ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 12 [26] 1475
Greenwich Workhouse—Death from Lead-Poisoning, Qs. Mr. Howard, Mr. Flynn, Mr. J. Burns ; As. Mr. Asquith *July* 26 [27] 1022
Hackney Union Vaccination Officer, Q. Mr. Bousfield ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 31 [25] 30
Hampstead Sanitary Regulations, Qs. Mr. Weir ; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 9 [26] 1193 ; *July* 12, 1471
Hong Kong Plague—Infection, Q. Mr. Macdona ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 28 [26] 444

[*cont.*

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD—cont.

Horses, Led, Q. Mr. J. Burns; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 17 [23] 625

Housing of the Working Classes—Standing Order, No. 183a, Q. Mr. Stuart-Wortley; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 7 [28] 255

Inspectors, Qs. Mr. A. C. Morton, Mr. H. Hoare; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 23 [29] 356

Library Commissioners, Q. Mr. Macdonald; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 12 [26] 1483

Liverpool Insanitary Houses, Q. Mr. Forwood; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 7 [24] 468

Liverpool Ward Boundaries, Q. Mr. Forwood; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 7 [24] 475; Q. Mr. Snape; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 10, 753; Q. Mr. W. Long; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 10, 768; Q. Mr. Forwood; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 24, 1183
Debate on, *May* 29 [24] 1624

London District Surveyors, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 30 [23] 1673

London Vestry Elections, Q. Mr. Barrow; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Mar* 15 [22] 335

Manorial Rights and Poor Rates, Qs. Mr. A. C. Morton, Mr. Storey; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 22 [24] 1006

Medical Inspectors and Cholera Survey, Q. and Obs. Earl of Strafford, Lord Hawkesbury *June* 25 [26] 106

Middlesex Records, Q. Mr. Picton; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 3 [24] 215

Ministers of Religion as Poor Law Guardians, Qs. Mr. Long, Mr. Loder; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 7 [24] 475

New Parish Boundaries, Q. Mr. Rankin; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 23 [23] 1099

Newton Abbot Workhouse Inquiry, Qs. Sir S. Northcote; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 8 [24] 596; *May* 31 [25] 39; *June* 21, 1621; Q. and Obs. Viscount Sidmouth, Lord Hawkesbury *June* 28 [26] 389; Q. Sir S. Northcote; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 27 [27] 1117

Oakington Overseers, Q. Mr. P. Stanhope; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 30 [23] 1677; Q. Mr. H. Hoare; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 1 [24] 38

Parliamentary Elections (see that title)

Parochial Register of Electors in Leicestershire, Q. Mr. C. M'Laren; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 1 [24] 20; Q. Mr. Long; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 10, 761

Pauper Children
  Brentwood School Scandal, Q. Sir C. Cameron; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 26 [23] 1416; Qs. Major Rasch; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 12 [25] 915; *June* 22 [26] 11; Qs. Mr. S. Smith, Sir J. Gorst; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 25, 121; Qs. Major Rasch; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 3, 796; *July* 27 [27] 1121
  District Schools, Qs. Sir J. Gorst; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 24 [24] 1161; *June* 28 [26] 443; Q. Mr. Talbot; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 3 [28] 31
  Epidemics, Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 4 [25] 284

[*cont.*

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD—cont.

Pauper Children—cont.
  Forest Gate School—Cases of Poisoning, Q. Dr. Farquharson; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 3 [24] 231; Q. Mr. A. Grove; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 8, 597
  Inquiry, Qs. Dr. Farquharson, Mr. Dodd; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 9 [28] 478; Q. Mr. J. Stuart; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 22 [29] 277; Q. Sir C. Dilke; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 24, 421
  Lady Inspectors, Q. Mr. Talbot; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 3 [28] 31
  Number of, Q. Mr. S. Smith; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 30 [27] 1239

Poor Law Boundaries in Kent, Q. Colonel Warde; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 7 [25] 588

Quarantine, Obs. Mr. G. Bowles, Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Mar* 29 [22] 955

Rabies, Treatment of, Qs. Mr. W. M'Laren, Mr. W. Johnston; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 22 [26] 12

Irish Questions (see under title IRELAND)

Registrar General's Report (1892), Q. Mr. Courtney; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 8 [24] 598

Registrars of Births as Political Agents, Q. Mr. Woods; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 5 [22] 1439

Returning Officers at Local Government Elections, Q. Mr. Wingfield-Digby; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 31 [25] 23; Q. Mr. Bigwood; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 18, 1342; Q. Mr. W. M'Laren; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 22 [26] 12; Qs. Mr. Channing, Sir R. Paget; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 26, 230

Rhyl Poor Law Relief Administration, Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 26 [23] 1407

River Eye, Pollution of, Q. Marquess of Granby; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 7 [28] 254

River Ffrwd, Drowning in, Q. Mr. D. Thomas; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 10 [28] 578

Ruabon, Insanitary Condition of, Q. Sir G. Osborne Morgan; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 17 [23] 610

St. Stephens-by-Launceston Vestry—Horwell's Endowed School Trustee, Q. Mr. Owen; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Mar* 15 [22] 304

Sanitary Inspectorships, Q. Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen; A. Sir W. Foster *June* 12 [25] 899

Small-Pox at Coventry, Q. Mr. Hopwood; A. Sir W. Foster *Aug* 14 [28] 997

Small-Pox at Rawtenstall, Q. Mr. Snape; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 11 [25] 799

Stage Play Licences, Q. Mr. Herbert Lewis; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 10 [24] 790

Suffocations in London Sewers, Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 8 [24] 597

Tuberculosis Commission (see that title)

Unemployed—Sheffield Union, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 22 [26] 10

[*cont.*

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD—cont.
Unification of London, Q. Mr. Cohen; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 10 [24] 765; Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 19 [27] 381; Q. Mr. Benn; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 16 [28] 1251
Vaccination (see that title)
Vehicular Lighting Regulations, Q. Mr. Mount; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 23 [23] 1100
Vestry Meetings, Q. Mr. Thornton; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 26 [23] 1446
Vote for, Con. in Com. *Aug* 18 [28] 1554
Voters' Lists, Preparation of, Q. Mr. Logan; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 22 [26] 6
Wandsworth and Clapham Union—Poor Relief under False Pretences, Q. Mr Roundell; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 13 [23] 333
West Ham Town Clerkships, Qs. Mr. J. Burns, Sir C. Dilke, Mr. Bartley, Mr. J. Chamberlain, Mr. Webster; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 19 [27] 361
Workhouse Infirmaries—Inspectors, Qs. Mr. A. C. Morton, Mr. H. Hoare; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 23 [29] 356
Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association, Q. Mr. Talbot; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 21 [29] 155

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders Bills

(No. 1)

c. Intro., Mr. J. Morley; Read 1° *Mar* 14 [22] 296
Read 2° *June* 19 [25] 1544
Reported *June* 27 [26] 372
Read 3°, and passed *June* 28, 514
l. Read 1ª *June* 29, 559
Read 2ª *July* 9, 1184
Com.; Reported, &c. *July* 10, 1286
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 12, 1446
Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cviii]

(No. 2)

c. Intro., Mr. J. Morley; Read 1° *Mar* 14 [22] 296
Read 2° *April* 3, 1316
Reported *April* 12 [23] 306
Read 3°, and passed *April* 13, 426
l. Read 1ª *April* 16, 454
Read 2ª *April* 27, 1574
Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *April* 30, 1658
Read 3ª, and passed *May* 1 [24] 18
Royal Assent *June* 1
[57° Vic. c. ii]

(No. 3)

c. Intro., Mr. J. Morley; Read 1° *Mar* 21 [22] 853
Read 2° *April* 10 [23] 1111
Reported *April* 19, 955
Read 3°, and passed *April* 20, 1067
[*cont.*

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders Bills (No. 3)—cont.
l. Read 1ª *April* 23, 1072
Read 2ª *May* 4 [24] 334
Com.; Reported *May* 7, 453
Read 3ª, and passed *May* 8, 577
Royal Assent *June* 1
[57° Vic. c. iii]

(No. 4)

c. Intro., Mr. J. Morley; Read 1° *April* 4 [22] 1379
Read 2° *April* 17 [23] 745
Reported *April* 26, 1549
Read 3°, and passed *April* 27, 1636
l. Read 1ª *April* 30, 1658
Read 2ª *June* 5 [25] 389
Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *June* 7, 546
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 8, 670
Royal Assent *June* 18
[57° Vic. c. xviii]

(No. 5)

c. Intro., Mr. J. Morley; Read 1° *April* 17 [23] 747
Read 2° *April* 24, 1327
Reported *June* 15 [25] 1318
As amended, Con. *June* 18, 1435
Read 3°, and passed *June* 19, 1543
l. Read 1ª *June* 21, 1618
Read 2ª *July* 26 [26] 216
Com.; Reported, &c. *July* 9, 1184
Amendts. reported *July* 10, 1286
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 12, 1446
Returned from the Commons with Amendts agreed to *July* 17 [27] 157
Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cviii]

(No. 6)

c. Intro., Mr. J. Morley; Read 1° *April* 26 [23] 1550
Read 2° *May* 2 [24] 200
Reported *May* 24, 1255
Read 3°, and passed *May* 25, 1361
l. Read 1ª *May* 28, 1367
Read 2ª *June* 12 [25] 896
Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *June* 15, 1204
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 18, 1337
Royal Assent *July* 3
[57° & 58° Vic. c. xxxv]

(No. 7)

c. Intro., Mr. J. Morley; Read 1° *April* 26 [23] 1550
Read 2° *May* 4 [24] 409
Reported *May* 24, 1255
Read 3°, and passed *May* 25, 1361
[*cont.*

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders Bills (No. 7)—cont.
l. Read 1ª *May* 28, 1367
Read 2ª *June* 15 [25] 1204
Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *June* 18, 1337
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 19, 1448
Royal Assent *July* 3
[57° & 58° Vic. c. xxxvi]

(No. 8)
c. Intro., Mr. J. Morley; Read 1° *April* 26 [23] 1550
Read 2° *May* 4 [24] 409
Reported *May* 24, 1255
Read 3°, and passed *May* 25, 1361
l. Read 1ª *May* 28, 1367
Read 2ª *June* 7 [25] 546
Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *June* 8, 670
Read 3ª *June* 11, 788
Royal Assent *June* 18
[57° Vic. c. xxiv]

(No. 9)
c. Intro., Mr. J. Morley; Read 1° *May* 22 [24] 1084
Read 2° *May* 30, 1680
Reported *June* 7 [25] 667
Read 3°, and passed *June* 8, 759
l. Read 1ª *June* 11, 788
Read 2ª *June* 21, 1617
Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *June* 22 [26] 4
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 25, 114
Royal Assent *July* 3
[57° & 58° Vic. c. xxxvii]

(No. 10)
c. Intro., Mr. J. Morley; Read 1° *May* 22 [24] 1084
Read 2° *May* 30, 1680
Reported *June* 7 [25] 667
As amended, Con. *June* 8, 759
Read 3°, and passed *June* 11, 890
l. Read 1ª *June* 12, 897
Read 2ª *June* 21, 1617
Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *June* 22 [26] 4
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 25, 114
Royal Assent *July* 3
[57° & 58° Vic. c. xxxviii]

(No. 11)
c. Intro., Mr. J. Morley; Read 1° *May* 28 [24] 03
Read 2° *June* 6 [25] 544
Reported *June* 15, 1318
Read 3°, and passed *June* 18, 1435
l. Read 1ª *June* 19, 1449
Read 2ª *June* 26 [26] 216

[*cont.*

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders Bills (No. 11)—cont.
Com.; Reported, &c. *June* 28, 390
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 29, 559
Royal Assent *July* 3
[57° & 58° Vic. c. xxxix]

(No. 12)
c. Intro., Mr. J. Morley; Read 1° *May* 28 [24] 1503
Read 2° *June* 6 [25] 544
Reported *June* 15, 1318
As amended, Con. *June* 18, 1435
Read 3°, and passed *June* 19, 1543
l. Read 1ª *June* 21, 1618
Read 2ª *June* 26 [26] 216
Com.; Reported, &c. *June* 29, 559
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 2, 661
Royal Assent *July* 3
[57° & 58° Vic. c. xl]

(No. 13)
c. Intro., Mr. J. Morley; Read 1° *June* 1 [25] 272
Read 2° *June* 12, 991
Reported *June* 20, 1608
As amended, Con. *June* 21, 1726
Read 3°, and passed *June* 22 [26] 102
l. Read 1ª *June* 22, 5
Read 2ª *June* 26, 216
Com.; Reported, &c. *July* 2, 660
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 3, 780
Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cix]

(No. 14)
c. Intro., Mr. J. Morley; Read 1° *June* 5 [25] 496
Read 2° *June* 15, 1317
Reported *June* 22 [26] 103
Read 3°, and passed *June* 25, 203
l. Read 1ª *June* 26, 217
Read 2ª *July* 9, 1184
Com.; Reported, &c. *July* 10, 1286
Amendts. reported *July* 12, 1446
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 13, 1555
c. Lords Amendts. agreed to *July* 17 [27] 275
l. Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cx]

Local Government Provisional Orders Bills
(No. 1)
c. Intro., Sir W. Foster; Read 1° *Mar* 13 [22] 254
Read 2° *Mar* 20, 998
Reported *April* 5, 1504
Con. *April* 6, 1522
Read 3°, and passed *April* 9, 1687

[*cont.*

Local Government Provisional Orders Bills (*No. 1*)—cont.
l. Read 1ª *April* 10 [23] 4
Read 2ª *June* 1 [25] 161
Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *June* 4, 282
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 5, 395
Royal Assent *June* 18
[57° Vic. c. xix]

(No. 2)
c. Intro., Sir W. Foster; Read 1° *Mar* 13 [22] 254
Read 2° *Mar* 29, 998
Reported *April* 5, 1504
Read 3°, and passed *April* 6, 1522
l. Read 1ª *April* 9, 1565
Read 2ª *June* 1 [25] 161
Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *June* 4, 282
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 5, 395
Royal Assent *June* 18
[57° Vic. c. xx]

(No. 3)
c. Intro., Sir W. Foster; Read 1° *Mar* 22 [22] 895
Read 2° *April* 6, 1522
Reported *April* 19 [23] 955
Read 3°, and passed *April* 20, 1067
l. Read 1ª *April* 23, 1072
Read 2ª *June* 1 [25] 161
Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *June* 4, 282
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 5, 395
Royal Assent *June* 18
[57° Vic. c. xxi]

(No. 4)
c. Intro., Sir W. Foster; Read 1° *April* 9 [22] 1688
Read 2° *April* 18 [23] 810
Read 3°, and passed *April* 30, 1783
l. Read 1ª *May* 1 [24] 19
Read 2ª *June* 5 [25] 389
Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *June* 7, 546
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 8, 670
Royal Assent *June* 18
[57° Vic. c. xxii]

(No. 5)
c. Intro., Sir W. Foster; Read 1° *April* 9 [22] 1688
Read 2° *April* 17 [23] 745
Reported *June* 12 [25] 991
Read 3°, and passed *June* 13, 1052
l. Read 1ª *June* 14, 1059
Read 2ª *June* 26 [26] 216
Com.; Reported, &c. *June* 28, 390
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 29, 559
Royal Assent *July* 3
[57° & 58° Vic. c. xlvi]

[*cont.*

Local Government Provisional Orders Bills—cont.

(No. 6)
c. Intro., Sir W. Foster; Read 1° *April* 26 [23] 1551
Read 2° *May* 8 [24] 691
Reported *May* 24, 1254
Read 3°, and passed *May* 25, 1361
l. Read 1ª *May* 28, 1367
Read 2ª *June* 5 [25] 395
Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *June* 7, 546
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 8, 670
Royal Assent *June* 18
[57° Vic. c. xxiii]

(No. 7)
c. Intro., Sir W. Foster; Read 1° *April* 26 [23] 1551
Read 2° *May* 23 [24] 1131
Reported *June* 15 [25] 1317
As amended, Con. *June* 18, 1435
Read 3°, and passed *June* 19, 1543
l. Read 1ª *June* 21, 1618
Read 2ª *June* 26 [26] 216
Com.; Reported, &c. *July* 6, 1061
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 9, 1185
Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxx]

(No. 8)
c. Intro., Sir W. Foster; Read 1° *May* 4 [24] 410
Read 2° *May* 23, 1131
Reported *June* 5 [25] 494
Read 3°, and passed *June* 6, 544
l. Read 1ª *June* 7, 547
Read 2ª *June* 18, 1337
Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *June* 19, 1448
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 21, 1617
Royal Assent *July* 3
[57° & 58° Vic. c. xlvii]

(No. 9)
c. Intro., Sir W. Foster; Read 1° *May* 7 [24] 575
Read 2° *May* 23, 1132
Reported *June* 15 [25] 1318
As amended, Con. *June* 18, 1435
Read 3°, and passed *June* 19, 1543
l. Read 1ª *June* 21, 1618
Read 2ª *June* 26 [26] 217
Com.; Reported, &c. *July* 6, 1062
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 9, 1185
Royal Assent *July* 20
57° & 58° Vic. c. cxxi]

(No. 10)
c. Intro., Sir W. Foster; Read 1° *May* 10 [24] 909
Read 2° *May* 25, 1362
Reported *June* 15 [25] 1318

[*cont.*

Local Government Provisional Orders Bills (*No. 10*)—cont.
As amended, Con. *June* 18, 1435
Read 3°, and passed *June* 19, 1543
l. Read 1ª *June* 21, 1618
Read 2ª *June* 26 [26] 217
Com.; Reported, &c. *July* 6, 1062
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 9, 1185
Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxxii]

(No. 11)
c. Intro., Sir W. Foster; Read 1° *May* 10 [24] 909
Read 2° *May* 25, 1362
Reported *June* 15 [25] 1318
As amended, Con. *June* 18, 1435
Read 3°, and passed *June* 19, 1543
l. Read 1ª *June* 21, 1618
Read 2ª *June* 26 [26] 217
Com.; Reported, &c. *July* 12, 1445
Amendts. reported *July* 13, 1555
Read 3ª, with Amendts., and passed *July* 16 [27] 1
c. Lords Amendt. agreed to *July* 18, 331
l. Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxxiii]

(No. 12)
c. Intro., Sir W. Foster; Read 1° *May* 10 [24] 909
Read 2° *May* 25, 1362
Reported *June* 15 [25] 1318
As amended, Con. *June* 18, 1435
Read 3°, and passed *June* 19, 1543
l. Read 1ª *June* 21, 1618
Read 2ª *June* 26 [26] 27
Com. adjourned *July* 6, 1045
Com.; Reported, &c. *July* 12, 1445
Reported from Standing Com. *July* 17 [27] 157
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 19, 357
Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxxiv]

(No. 13)
c. Intro., Sir W. Foster; Read 1° *May* 10 [24] 910
Read 2° *May* 29, 1635
Reported, with Amendts. *June* 20 [25] 1607
As amended, Con. *June* 21, 1726
Read 3°, and passed *June* 22 [26] 103
l. Read 1ª *June* 22, 5
Read 2ª *June* 26, 217
Com.; Reported, &c. *July* 12, 1446
Amendts. reported *July* 13, 1555
Read 3ª, with Amendts., and passed *July* 16 [27] 2
c. Lords Amendts. agreed to *July* 18, 331
l. Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxxv]
[*cont.*

Local Government Provisional Orders Bills—cont.

(No. 14)
c. Intro., Sir W. Foster; Read 1° *May* 22 [24] 1083
Read 2° *June* 5 [25] 494
Reported *June* 28 [26] 514
As amended, Con. *June* 29, 656
Read 3° and passed *July* 2, 771
l. Read 1ª *July* 3, 780
Read 2ª *July* 9, 1184
Com.; Reported, &c. *July* 19 [27] 356
Amendts. reported *July* 20, 537
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 23, 655
c. Lords Amendts. agreed to *July* 25, 951
l. Royal Assent *July* 31
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxxix]

(No. 15)
c. Intro., Sir W. Foster; Read 1° *May* 22 [24] 1084
Read 2° *June* 5 [25] 494
Reported; Read 3°, and passed *June* 22 [26] 103
l. Read 1ª *June* 22, 5
Read 2ª *June* 26, 217
Reported, &c. *July* 20 [27] 536
Com. *July* 24, 791
Amendts. reported *July* 26, 997
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 27, 1116
Royal Assent *Aug* 17
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxciii]

(No. 16)
c. Intro., Sir W. Foster; Read 1° *May* 24 [24] 1256
Read 2° *June* 5 [25] 494
Reported; Read 3°, and passed *June* 22 [26] 103
l. Read 1ª *June* 22, 5
Read 2ª *June* 26, 217
Com.; Reported, &c. *July* 9, 1185
Amendts. reported *July* 10, 1286
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 12, 1446
Returned from the Commons, with Amendts. agreed to *July* 17 [27] 157
Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxxvi]

(No. 17)
c. Intro., Sir W. Foster; Read 1° *May* 25 [24] 1364
Reported *June* 15 [25] 1318
As amended, Con. *June* 18, 1435
Read 3°, and passed *June* 19, 1544
l. Read 1ª *June* 21, 1619
Read 2ª *June* 26 [26] 217
Com.; Reported, &c. *July* 19 [27] 356
Amendts. reported *July* 20, 537
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 23, 655
c. Lords Amendts. agreed to *July* 25, 951
l. Royal Assent *July* 31
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxxx]
[*cont.*

Local Government Provisional Orders Bills—cont.

(No. 18)

c. Intro., Sir W. Foster; Read 1° *May* 28 [24] 1503
Read 2° *June* 8 [25] 760
Reported *June* 28 [26] 514
As amended, Con. *June* 29, 656
Read 3°, and passed *July* 2, 771
l. Read 1ª *July* 3, 780
Read 2ª *July* 9, 1184
Com.; Reported, &c. *July* 19 [27] 356
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 20, 537
Royal Assent *July* 31
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxxxi]

(No. 19)

c. Intro., Sir W. Foster; Read 1° *May* 30 [24] 1680
Read 2° *June* 12 [25] 991
Reported *June* 20, 1608
Read 3°, and passed *June* 21, 1726
l. Read 1ª *June* 22 [26] 5
Read 2ª *June* 26, 217
Com.; Reported, &c. *July* 6, 1062
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 9, 1185
Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxxvii]

Local Government Provisional Order (Gas) Bill

c. Intro., Sir W. Foster; Read 1° *May* 10 [24] 909
Read 2° *May* 25, 1362
Reported *June* 5 [25] 494
Read 3°, and passed *June* 6, 544
l. Read 1ª *June* 7, 547
Read 2ª *June* 18, 1336
Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *June* 19, 1448
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 21, 1617
Royal Assent *July* 3
[57° & 58° Vic. c. xliv]

Local Government Provisional Orders (Housing of the Working Classes) Bill

c. Intro., Sir W. Foster; Read 1° *Mar* 13 [22] 254
Read 2° *Mar* 29, 998
Reported *April* 5, 1504
Con. *April* 6, 1522
Read 3°, and passed *April* 9, 1687
l. Read 1ª *April* 10 [23] 4
Read 2ª *June* 1 [25] 160
Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *June* 4, 282
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 5, 395
Royal Assent *June* 18, 1321
[57° Vic. c. xvii]

Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of the Working Classes) (No. 2) Bill

c. Intro., Sir W. Foster; Read 1° *May* 10 [24] 909
Read 2° *May* 25, 1362
Reported *June* 5 [25] 495
Read 3°, and passed *June* 6, 544
l. Read 1ª *June* 7, 547
Read 2ª *June* 18, 1337
Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *June* 19, 1448
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 21, 1617
Royal Assent *July* 3
[57° & 58° Vic. c. xlv]

Local Government Provisional Order (Poor Law) Bill

c. Intro., Sir W. Foster; Read 1° *May* 10 [24] 910
Read 2° *May* 25, 1362
Reported *June* 5 [25] 494
Read 3°, and passed *June* 6, 544
l. Read 1ª *June* 7, 547
Read 2ª *June* 18, 1337
Report from Select Com.; Re-com. *July* 2 [26] 660
Com.; Standing Com. negatived *July* 6, 1062
Amendts. reported *July* 9, 1186
Read 3ª *July* 10, 1287
c. Lords Amendts. agreed to *July* 13, 1655
Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxxviii]

Local Government (Scotland) Bill

c. Motion for Leave (Sir G. Trevelyan); Read 1° *April* 27 [23] 1613
Read 2°, and com. to Standing Com. on Scotch Bills *May* 22 [24] 1007
Reported from Standing Com. *July* 27 [27] 1219
As amended, Con., and Debate adjourned *Aug* 8 [28] 410; *Aug* 9, 483
Con.; Read 3°, and passed *Aug* 10, 570
l. Read 1ª *Aug* 13, 756
Read 2ª *Aug* 14, 979
Com. and Reported *Aug* 16, 1166
Amendts. reported *Aug* 17, 1358
c. Lords Amendts. con. *Aug* 22 [29] 284
l. Commons Amendt. to Lords Amendts. con., and agreed to *Aug* 23, 345
Royal Assent *Aug* 25
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 58]

Local Government (Scotland) Bill

Qs. Mr. G. Murray, Mr. Hozier; As. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 27 [27] 1144; Qs. Mr. Renshaw, Mr. Hozier, Sir D. Macfarlane; As. Sir W. Harcourt *Aug* 2, 1565

Education in Scotland, Q. Dr. Macgregor; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 22 [24] 997

[cont.

Local Government (Scotland) Bill—cont.
Parish Councils and Educational Affairs, Q. Sir H. Maxwell; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 31 [25] 40

Local Government (Scotland) [Expenses]
c. Con. in Com. *Aug* 7 [28] 368
Res. reported *Aug* 8, 410

Local Government (Scotland) [Salaries]
Res. con. in Com. *May* 23 [24] 1132
Reported *May* 24, 1256

Local Rates, Treasury Grants in Lieu of
Q. Mr. Darling; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 10 [24] 798
Return pres. *May* 21, 995

Local Taxation
Government Property, Return ordered *April* 19 [23] 956; Refer also under *Government Property*
Incidence of, Q. Mr. Humphreys-Owen; A. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 24 [27] 806

Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Act, 1890
Motion for Return (Lord Norton) *May* 31 [25] 3

Local Taxation Licences, 1893-4
Copy pres. June 25 [26] 204

LOCKWOOD, Lt.-Colonel A., *Essex, Epping*
Agricultural Depression in Essex [25] 800; Res., 851
Army
  Bedding for Soldiers [24] 366
  Compressed Fodder Contracts [24] 376
  Discharged Soldiers' Grievances [23] 335
  Examinations—Non-Commissioned Officers [25] 1348
  Mobilisation [22] 519
  Non-Commissioned Officers' Pensions [24] 1158
  Staff Officers' Pay at Manœuvres [22] 580
  Waltham Abbey Powder Factory—Explosions, Pensions, &c. [23] 338; [24] 575, 789, 809, 1426, 1431, 1441, 1442, 1444, 1445; [25] 32, 1348, 1636
Army (Annual) Bill, Com. [23] 573, 577
Army Estimates
  Baths for Soldiers, &c. [25] 1050
  Clothing, &c. [26] 969
  Colchester Huts [26] 1082
  Colonel M'Clintock [27] 313, 314
  Contagious Diseases among the Troops [25] 1021, 1023
  Conveyance of Troops [26] 813
  Land Forces [22] 539, 545

LOCKWOOD, Lt.-Colonel A.—*cont.*
Army Estimates—*cont.*
  Meat Supplies, &c. [25] 1044
  Medical Examinations [26] 802, 810
  Temperance Fund [26] 1143
  Waltham Abbey Powder Factory [26] 1029, 1030; [27] 308, 325
  War Office Clerks, &c. [27] 293, 303
Business of the House, Res. [22] 1674
Central Telegraph Office—Working Hours [22] 1005
Finance Bill, Com. [26] 272, 370
Prison Officers' Promotion [24] 753
Railways—Fatal Accident to Mr. Theobald [22] 147
Supply
  Houses of Parliament [22] 981
  Nottingham Post Office [24] 932
Vivisection [25] 17, 1648

LOCKWOOD, Mr. F., *York*
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [27] 454, 459

Locomotive (Threshing Engines) Bill
c. Intro., Sir J. Kennaway; Read 1° *April* 20 [23] 1068
2R. deferred *May* 21 [24] 994
Select Com. nominated *June* 7 [25] 667
Reported from Select Com., and Re-com. *June* 20, 1608
Con. in Con., and Reported; Read 3°, and passed *June* 21, 1726
l. Read 1ª *June* 22 [26] 4
Read 2ª *July* 3, 774
Com.; Reported; Re-com. to Standing Com. *July* 5, 938
Reported *July* 10, 1286
Amendts. reported *July* 16 [27] 2
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 19, 357
c. Lords Amendts. con., and agreed to *Aug* 7 [28] 367
l. Royal Assent *Aug* 17
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 37]

LODER, Mr. G. W. E., *Brighton*
Brighton Cavalry Barracks [24] 29
Finance Bill, Com. [26] 496
Ministers of Religion as Poor Law Guardians [24] 476
Preston Barracks, Brighton [27] 1007

Lodgers' Parliamentary Register
Return pres. May 10 [24] 911

LOGAN, Mr. J. W., *Leicester, Harborough*
Aged Poor Commission [26] 1310
Board of Agriculture Publications [24] 235; [25] 557
Hanbury Charity, Langton [25] 21
Queen's Speech—Administration of the Law in Ireland [22] 277, 278
Voters' Lists, Preparation of [26] 6

[*cont.*

LONDON (see *Metropolis*)

LONDON, Bishop of
Endowed Schools Act, 1869, and Amending Acts, and Welsh Intermediate Education Act, 1889 (Scheme for the County of Flint), Res. [23] 603
Licensing Laws Amendment Bill, Pres. [25] 1619; 2R. [26] 921, 927, 930, 931

London County Council (see *County Councils*)

London County Council (General Powers) Bill
c. Con., and Debate adjourned *May* 9 [24] 693, As amended, Con. *May* 29, 1508

London County Council (General Powers) Bill
Alleged Mistake in the Entry, Qs. and Obs. Mr. Howell, Mr. Speaker, Mr. J. Stuart *May* 31 [25] 4

London County Council (Tower Bridge Southern Approach) Bill
c. Read 2° *April* 3 [22] 1217
Con., as amended, deferred *May* 31 [25] 5
l. Read 2ª *June* 18, 1321
Read 3ª, with Amendts., and passed *Aug* 7 [28] 229

London Markets Bill
c. Intro., Mr. S. Montagu; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 455
[Dropped]

London Police Magistrates (see under *Law and Justice and Police—Magistracy*)

London Streets and Buildings Bill
c. Com. to Select Com. *April* 5 [22] 1426
Select Com. nominated *April* 16 [23] 590
Discharges from, and Additions to, Com. *April* 23, 1203
Motion for Re-com., and Instr. to Com *June* 20 [25] 1545
Instrs. to Com. (Sir C. Dilke) *June* 25 [26] 115; (Mr. Weir) *July* 5, 942
Con.; Read 3°, and passed *July* 16 [27] 3
l. Read 2ª *July* 23, 645
c. Lords Amendts. con., and agreed to *Aug* 18 [28] 1489

London University
Reference to, in Debate on *Supply*, *May* 21 [24] 958, 959, &c.

London University Commission (see *Gresham University Commission*)

LONDONDERRY, Marquess of
Aliens Bill [28] 889
Ireland—Agrarian Crimes—Cork Murder [23] 1070, 1071, 1553, 1555, 1558, 1559, 1560, 1568
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [28] 740, 745

LONG, Mr. W. H., *Liverpool, West Derby*
Agricultural Depression [23] 352, 354
Army Estimates
Forage [22] 430
Yeomanry [26] 870
Cambridge Corporation Bill, Con. [24] 340, 360
Canadian Cattle Importation [24] 1611, 1612, 1616
Cardiff Corporation Bill, Con. [26] 664, 669, 670, 672
Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, 2R. [27] 816, 876, 888, 891; Com. [28] 73, 76, 99, 213, 214, 224
Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 510, 512, 517, 519, 524, 559, 561, 650; [25] 657, 659, 660, 986; [26] 97, 281, 334, 360, 361, 507, 586; Con., 1245, 1497, 1637; 2R. [27] 207, 208, 219
Great Western Railway (No. 1) Bill, Instr. to Com. [25] 1064
Liverpool Telegraph Clerks' Grievances [27] 1392
Liverpool Ward Boundaries [24] 768
New Estate Duty [23] 1103
Old Age Provident Pensions Bill, 2R. [22] 1364
Parliamentary Elections (Expenses), Res. [24] 1357
Parochial Electors (Registration Acceleration) Bill [23] 859; 2R., 1780; Com. [26] 872, 873, 1154, 1160, 1161, 1162
Parochial Registration [24] 761
Period of Qualification and Elections Bill, 2R. [24] 116, 124
Police and Sanitary Regulations Committee [22] 1240, 1243
Poor Law Guardians, Ministers of Religion as [24] 475
Prison Warders [22] 1004; [26] 1484
Railway and Canal Traffic Bill, 2R. [26] 102
Supply—Voluntary Schools [22] 809, 813, 814
Thames Conservancy Bill, Con. [26] 395, 1291
Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill, Con. [27] 1373, 1376, 1379
Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill, Con. [27] 1384
Wallasey Embankment Bill, 2R. [25] 1454
Ways and Means — Financial Statement, Com. [23] 535

LORD ADVOCATE—Mr. J. B. **BALFOUR**

LORD CHANCELLOR—Lord **HERSCHELL**

Lordship of Appeal—Appointment
Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; A. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 12 [26] 1486

Loss of Life and Property at Sea (see under *Merchant Shipping*)

LOTHIAN, Marquess of
Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Com. [28] 1166, 1171, 1175, 1191, 1193, 1194, 1196, 1214; Report, 1360, 1361
Scotch Representative Peers [25] 1335

Lottery Advertisements and the Post Office (see under *Post Office*)

LOUGH, Mr. T., *Islington, W.*
Accidents—Police Removing Dead Bodies [24] 1401
Admiralty Contracts and Trades Union Wages [26] 426
Army Estimates—Factory Labour [26] 1014, 1020
Cab Drivers, Prosecutions against [23] 1419
Cab Strike [24] 1178, 1282, 1298, 1299, 1301, 1304, 1305, 1309; [25] 176, 559; [26] 788
Cordite, Manufacture of [24] 1171
Eight Hours Day in Naval Dockyards [25] 1462
Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, 2R. [27] 832, 861; Com. [28] 79, 80, 91, 94, 103, 108, 204, 374, 391, 396
Supply—Printing Contracts—Trade Union Wages, &c. [28] 1559, 1570
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Com. [27] 1530, 1531
Thames—Sale of an Eyot near Abingdon [24] 1399
Woolwich—Eight Hours Day [24] 224
Woolwich Gun Factory Discharges [29] 176

LOWTHER, Mr. J. W., *Cumberland, Penrith*
Africa, Sir E. Hertslet's Map of [25] 292
Anglo-Belgian Agreement [25] 805; [27] 173; [28] 1252
British East Africa Company [24] 756
Brussels Act [25] 813
Charity Commission (Parliamentary Control), Res. [22] 1015, 1016, 1017, 1023, 1025
Charity Commissioners and the Local Government Act [22] 1003
Copyhold (Consolidation) Bill, Com. [28] 882
Cumberland Assizes and Sessions [26] 1472
East African Agreements [25] 173
Flitwick Board School [25] 415

[*cont.*

LOWTHER, Mr. J. W.—*cont.*
Franco-Siamese Question—Papers [28] 556
Greystoke School, Cumberland [26] 949
Kirkconnell, Mr. J. F. [24] 760
Manica Plateau and the Portuguese [22] 584
Marking of Foreign and Colonial Meat [24] 1177
Metalliferous Mines in Cumberland, Inspectorship of [27] 1241, 1404
Morocco Disturbances [25] 1230
Niger Company—Customs Duty [25] 812
Nile Reservoirs [25] 551
Nyassa-Tanganyika District, Gunpowder in [28] 18
Parochial Electors (Registration Acceleration) Bill, 2R. [24] 915, 917, 923
Russo-German Commercial Treaty [22] 1097
Sierra Leone—Conflict between French and British Soldiers at Warina [28] 995
Sir Francis Scott's Expedition [27] 793
Supply
  Anglo-Belgian Agreement, &c. [27] 1325
  Diplomatic Service [27] 1342
  Foreign Affairs [28] 1464
  Metalliferous Mines Inspector—Mr. Leck [27] 1447, 1448, 1449, 1453; [28] 1441
  Uganda [22] 393; [25] 220, 221, 228, 230
Transvaal—Compulsory Military Service [26] 449
Uganda Affairs [24] 756
Zambesi—Collision with Portuguese Troops [22] 583

LOWTHER, Right Hon. James, *Kent, Thanet*
Agricultural Depression in Essex [25] 834
Agriculture, Journal for [27] 379
Alien Paupers, Returns [22] 349
Business of the House [22] 1627; [23] 172; [25] 72, 73; [27] 1271; [28] 570
Canadian Cattle Trade [24] 33
Estate Duty and the Colonies [25] 925
Finance Bill, Com., *cl.* 1 [24] 1246, 1247; *cl.* 4 [25] 855; *cl.* 5, 930, 935, 938, 939; *cl.* 6, 1240, 1244, 1246, 1256; *cl.* 16 [26] 138; *cl.* 17, 140, 142, 144, 152; *cl.* 20, 271; Con., 1204, 1215, 1493, 1513, 1582
Fishing Boat Lights [24] 204
Income Tax [22] 1056
Ottawa Conference [26] 1574
Pleuro-Pneumonia in Kent [24] 43
Police Protection in Ireland [28] 457
Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill Con. [24] 1640, 1643, 1660, 1663, 1670, 1671, 1674
St. Paul's School [25] 789
Secondary Education, Royal Commission on [23] 199, 200
Sport Regulation Bill, 2R. [22] 1091
Stationery Office—Publications Return [23] 856
Supply
  Art and Science Buildings [22] 1067, 1070 1078

[*cont.*

LOWTHER, Right Hon. James—*cont.*
- Supply—*cont.*
  - Diplomatic and Consular Buildings [22] 1083, 1088
  - House of Commons Offices, Commission on [22] 354
  - Post Office Buildings [24] 946, 948
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Res. [23] 934; Com. [27] 1040, 1055, 1089, 1097, 1098, 1158
- Trade and Agriculture, Depression of—Amendt. to Address in Answer to Queen's Speech [22] 107

LOYD, Colonel L. V., *Chatham*
- Chatham Dockyard Discharges [25] 1473
- London County Council (General Powers) Bill, Con. [24] 696

LUBBOCK, Right Hon. Sir J., *London University*
- Boards of Conciliation Bill, Intro. [22] 1316; 2R. [25] 889
- Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, Con. [27] 1605, 1613, 1623, 1624, 1627, 1636, 1637
- Building Societies (No. 3) Bill, Intro. [24] 140
- Business of the House [22] 1660; [25] 62; [26] 578; Ministerial Statement, Motion for Adjournment of the House [27] 413
- Cape Customs Duties [27] 811
- Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill, 2R. [23] 946, 947
- Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill [23] 224, 634; 2R. [27] 838; Motion for Select Com., 948; Instr. to Com. [28] 39; Com., 51, 77, 93, 94, 186, 198, 222, 226
- Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 548; Instr. to Com., 1203, 1207, 1209; Con. in Com., *cl.* 1, 1218, 1219, 1223, 1234, 1573; [25] 124, 125, 126, 331, 332, 378, 381; *cl.* 2, 540, 596, 616, 617; *cl.* 5, 935, 936, 944, 948, 951, 953, 962, 1105, 1109, 1112, 1145; *cl.* 7, 1421, 1424, 1425, 1429, 1478, 1479, 1481, 1503; *cl.* 10, 1669, 1674, 1677; *cl.* 13, 1698; *cl.* 14 [26] 35, 42; *cl.* 17, 148, 150; *cl.* 29, 482, 487, 491; *New cls.*, 644, 721; Con., 1239, 1261, 1262, 1270, 1271, 1384, 1495, 1531, 1544, 1621; [27] 31, 36, 40, 41, 44, 74; 3R., 118, 187, 221, 222
- Income Tax [22] 1051, 1052
- London County Council (Tower Bridge Southern Approach) Bill, 2R. [22] 1236
- Registration Expenses [24] 46, 47
- Sheerness Gunnery Establishment, Money Voted for [24] 1152
- Shops (Early Closing) Bill, Intro. [22] 456
- Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [23] 649, 653
- Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 517, 1167, 1178, 1179, 1181, 1184

Lunacy
- *Adjudicated Bankrupts — Case of Mr. Warren*, Qs. Mr. H. Johnstone; As. Mr. Bryce *June* 1 [25] 167; *June* 21, 1634; Qs. Mr. H. Johnstone; As. Sir J. Rigby *June* 22 [26] 10; *July* 12, 1484

[*cont.*

Lunacy—cont.
- "*Commissioners in Lunacy* v. *Sherrard*," Q. Mr. Labouchere; A. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 19 [22] 584
- *Commissioners' Report*, Q. Mr. Harrington; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 19 [27] 377
- *Increase of in England and Wales*, Q. Mr. Hayden; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 7 [24] 467; Q. Dr. Kenny; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 2 [27] 1563
- *Irish Questions* (see under title IRELAND)
- *Scotch Questions* (see under title SCOTLAND)

Lunacy Commission
- *Vote for*, *Aug* 17 [28] 1482

Luton Commons
- *Paper pres. April* 16 [23] 591

LUTTRELL, Mr. H. C. F., *Devon, Tavistock*
- Coastguards in Cornwall [26] 1560
- Dartmoor Prison Officials—Married Quarters [25] 898
- Justices of the Peace Bill, Intro. [22] 454
- Life-Saving Apparatus [28] 238
- Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Con. [28] 517
- Rural Postmen [22] 681
- Tenant Farmers' Sporting Rights Bill, Intro. [22] 787

LYELL, Sir L., *Orkney and Shetland*
- Crofters' Act (1886), Res. [23] 1652
- Crofters' Rents [25] 1217
- London County Council (General Powers) Bill, Con. [24] 695
- Shetland and the Education Code [25] 178
- Trawling [22] 144, 333; [25] 30, 565, 1220; [26] 948

Lytham School Charity
- Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Mr. F. S. Stevenson *Aug* 6 [28] 141

MACARTNEY, Mr. W. E., *Antrim, S.*
- Canadian Cattle Examination [25] 399
- Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act (1887) Repeal Bill; 2R. [23] 801, 804
- Ireland
  - Boycotting, Incitement to, at Peake [23] 1582
  - Butterly, Mr., Case of [24] 25
  - Cattle Traffic on Railways [29] 18
  - Cattle Weighbridges at Ballymagovern Fair [25] 1459
  - Clanricarde Agent [27] 1389
  - Clogher Sessions Clerkship [25] 1459
  - Deeny, Mr., J.P. [23] 832
  - De Freyne Estate [27] 1567
  - Denunciations [24] 23, 801, 1264; [25] 552, 554, 797, 904; [26] 1189

[*cont.*

MACARTNEY, Mr. W. E.—*cont.*
Ireland—*cont.*
Dysart Meeting Prohibited [25] 1075
Evictions in County Limerick [28] 7
Father Dunphy [24] 466
Fermoy "Planters" [24] 801
Labourers' Cottages, Stranorlar [23] 1664
Land Acts—Select Committee Report, Publication of in "The Times" [29] 28, 30
Lurgan Party Riots [29] 20
M'Elligott, Mr.—Licence Transfer [24] 25
Mail Service—New Tenders [25] 23
Mungret Eviction [27] 1403
Nationalist Boards of Guardians [24] 1261
O'Callaghan, Colonel [27] 1257; [28] 1381
O'Kelly, Mr. E.—Licence Transfer [24] 758
Paupers—Deportation from Scotland [26] 1188
Phœnix Park—Polo [25] 424
Portadown Post Office [25] 680
Registration Bill [22] 864
Swine Fever in the Antrim Union [27] 167
Walsh, Hannah [28] 1235
Public Libraries (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [23] 1383

Supply
Agricultural Education [28] 1552
Deportation of Paupers [29] 65
O'Callaghan, Colonel, &c. [29] 66, 69, 70
Walsh, Hannah [29] 65

Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill [28] 1391; 2R. [27] 708, 709; Com., 1052, 1075, 1157, 1203

MACDONA, Mr. J. C., *Southwark, Rotherhithe*
Army Commissions [27] 30
Bottles, Foreign, Importation of [24] 1272, 1413
Carbolic Acid, Deaths from [23] 968
Committals for Trial at West Ham [29] 350
Coopers' Wages, &c., at Deptford [28] 989
Derelicts [22] 444, 1004, 1007, 1057; [26] 444; [27] 174, 175, 551, 668, 1568; [29] 378, 417
Derelict Vessels (Reports) Bill, Intro. [22] 461; Com. [24] 199
Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, Com. [28] 390
Foreign-Made Goods, Imports of [25] 564, 687
Friendly Societies' Returns [28] 473
"Helvetia," Case of the [26] 1301
H.M.S. "Benbow" [28] 1381; [29] 422
Hong Kong Plague [26] 444
India—Sir R. Sandeman [29] 152
London Sewer, Suffocation in [24] 597
Matabele War [24] 764
Music Halls—Dangerous Performances [24] 1528
Promotion in the Foot Guards [28] 558
Queen's Birthday [24] 48
Railway Stations, Names of [25] 1207
St. James's School, Bermondsey [28] 988

[*cont.*

MACDONA, Mr. J. C.—*cont.*
Staffordshire Rifle Range Fatality [25] 922, 1343
Supply—Transvaal [28] 1508
Transvaal—British Subjects [25] 1079; [27] 813
Wallasey Embankment Bill, 2R. [25] 1456
Wimbledon Rifle Range Accident [24] 1278, 1413; [25] 1343, 1469; [26] 574; [27] 1568

MACDONALD, Mr. J. A. M., *Tower Hamlets, Bow*
Bell's Match Girls' Strike—Case before Mr. Mead [22] 579; [23] 467, 468
Bryant and May's Strike—Imprisonment of Amelia Gifford [24] 810, 1402
Civil Service
Colonial and India Offices, Assistant Clerks in [23] 193
Colonial Office Copyists [23] 1225
Messengers' Holidays [29] 372
Second Division Clerks [23] 192, 846
Sick Leave [23] 192
Customs Boatmen [26] 232, 784
Customs Messengers [24] 764
Customs Statistical Department [29] 387
Deptford—Victoria Victualling Yard—Boots and Shoes Examiner [29] 367
Engine Drivers at Woolwich Arsenal [26] 1068
Hours of Labour (Local Authorities, &c., Servants) Bill, Intro. [22] 1316
Library Commissioners [26] 1483
London Board Schools, Overcrowding in [24] 1149
London Small Arms Company, Bow [26] 792
Naval Contracts [26] 570, 572, 1079; [27] 556
Stationery Contracts [29] 394
Teachers' Registration Bill, Intro. [22] 1316
Telegraphs—Departmental Committee [22] 1249; [26] 124
Torpedo Boat Destroyers [28] 999
Trade and Agriculture, Depression of—Amendt. to Address in Answer to Queen's Speech [22] 95
War Department Writers [24] 790
Woolwich Arsenal—Hours of Labour [24] 364

MACFARLANE, Sir D. H., *Argyll*
Animals, Wild, Treatment of [24] 1277
Business of the House [22] 1609; [26] 961; [27] 281, 285; [28] 32, 252, 269
Crimean Veterans, Destitute [26] 219, 945
Deputy Speaker [22] 1255
Finance Bill, Com., *cl.* 2 [25] 520; *cl.* 3, 712, 713; *cl.* 5, 955; *cl.* 6, 1389; *cl.* 24 [24] 328; Con., 1339, 1402, 1513, 1524, 1607
Great Western and Midland Railway Companies Bill, 3R. [28] 370
House of Commons Ventilation [23] 1426

[*cont.*

MACFARLANE, Sir D. H.—*cont.*
- India
  - Home Pensions, Increase in [27] 546
  - Import Duties on Cotton, &c. [22] 327, 564, 1440
  - Military Expenditure [23] 860; [27] 1020; [28] 266
  - Opium Commission, Cost of [22] 678
- Ladies' Gallery [23] 1448; [24] 472
- Local Government (Scotland) Bill [27] 1566; Con. [28] 495
- Poet Laureateship [27] 179
- Portnahaven Lighthouse [24] 1400
- Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Com. [24] 1091; Con., 1638, 1669
- Scotland
  - Ardchattan Episcopal School [26] 1471
  - Cantyre Crofters [25] 569
  - Crieff Postal Arrangements [24] 1545
  - Crofters' Act—Legislation [25] 301; Res. [23] 1638, 1639
  - Diseased Sheep at Ardrishaig [26] 1556
  - Fishermen's Rights [28] 239
  - Fort William Foreshores [26] 1188
  - Loch Fyne Herrings [22] 311
  - Loch Fyne—Sunday Fishing [27] 1015
  - Loch Tarbert Fisheries [27] 1262
  - Saddell Tenancy Dispute [22] 857
  - Salmon Fishing Prosecutions at Oban [27] 1261
  - Secondary Education Grant [22] 678
  - Tiree Crofters—Erection of a March Dyke [27] 359
- Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [23] 1604, 1605
- Supply
  - Crofter Commission, &c. [22] 794
  - Dockyard Employés and District and Parish Councils [27] 1304
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill [27] 1144
- Thames Conservancy Bill, Con. [26] 1452, 1458
- Torpedo Boat "Havock"—Disclosure of Plans [22] 435
- Transvaal—Commandeering [26] 17

MACGREGOR, Dr. D., *Inverness-shire*
- Budget Proposals [23] 858
- Business of the House [27] 280; [28] 146, 252
- Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Bill, Qs. [23] 220; [24] 42; [25] 300; [26] 1280; [27] 1364; [28] 563, 771, 996; 2R. [27] 1361, 1553
- Finance Bill, Com. [26] 322, 328, 331
- Local Government (Scotland) Bill—Motion for Leave [23] 1635; 2R. [24] 1078, 1079; Con. [28] 491, 521, 526, 531, 592, 609, 622, 630
  - Education and Parish Councils [24] 997
- Railway Servants' Sight Tests [25] 20
- Scotland
  - County Council Deputations to London [25] 402
  - Crofter Commission [24] 586; [25] 300, 805, 918, 1100, 1475

[*cont.*

MACGREGOR, Dr. D.—*cont.*
- Scotland—*cont.*
  - Edinburgh University Curriculum [23] 1411
  - Feus and Leases Committee [25] 570
  - Financial Relations [23] 1683
  - Fishing Licences [24] 1174
  - Fort William Railway Station [27] 1253
  - Home Rule for [23] 220, 221
  - Procurator Fiscal of Lochmaddy [22] 862
  - Saddell Tenancy Dispute [22] 857
  - Salmon Fishery Regulations [24] 209
  - Small Isles Medical Attendance [23] 962; [24] 1541
  - Trawling [27] 27
  - Voting Qualification [23] 842
  - West Highland Railway — Mallaig Railway [28] 146
- Sea Fisheries (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [24] 1083
- Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [23] 706, 707, 1609
- Supply—Scotch Affairs [22] 840, 843, 844, 849

MACLURE, Mr. J. W., *Lancashire, S.E., Stretford*
- Army (Annual) Bill, Com. [23] 575
- Derby Day Adjournment, Res. [25] 429
- Glasgow Faculty of Procurators [25] 41
- Greece—Piræus and Larissa Railway Company [23] 1431
- Home Rule for Scotland [23] 220
- Magistrates' Appointments — Returns [23] 208

MACNAGHTEN, Lord
- Solicitors' Examination Bill, 2R. [24] 17

MAC NEILL, Mr. J. G. S., *Donegal, S.*
- Cattle Seizures in County Tyrone [22] 1593
- Cork Murder [23] 1107
- Crimean Veterans, Destitute [26] 219
- Curragh Camp Buildings—Irish Stone [26] 440
- Donegal Voters' List [28] 451
- High Sheriffs' Appointments [28] 472
- Killybegs Pier [23] 614; [28] 240
- Stranorlar and Strabane Railway [27] 1119
- Trade Journals' Postage Rates [24] 769

M'ARTHUR, Mr. W. A. (Lord of the Treasury), *Cornwall, Mid., St. Austell*
- Truro and Newquay Junction Railway Bill, Con. [24] 1147

M'CARTAN, Mr. M., *Down, S.*
- Army Medical Staff [27] 1408
- Central Telegraph Office [26] 1561; [27] 1014

[*cont.*

M'CARTAN, Mr. M.—*cont.*
- Ireland
  - Antrim Castle Deer Park—Camp of Exercise [23] 846
  - Antrim Clerk of the Peace [25] 906
  - Bangor Pier and Harbour Works [22] 1509
  - Belfast and Antrim Lunatic Asylums—Board of Governors [22] 878
  - Belfast Disturbances—2nd Battalion Dorset Regiment [23] 215
  - Belfast Workhouse—Lunatics [22] 876, 1430; [23] 966; [24] 461, 802, 1416; [25] 298
  - Cottier Tenements [27] 807
  - County Cess—Rathlin Island [27] 1124
  - Deed Stamping [23] 462, 831, 1091, 1215
  - Down, County, Sea Fisheries [23] 1075
  - Downpatrick Water Supply [26] 1196; [27] 558
  - Dublin Custom House [22] 1573
  - Fisheries—Loss of Life and Boats in Recent Gales [23] 1587
  - Hilltown Telegraph Service [22] 865
  - Infant Insurance [27] 1123
  - Labourers' Cottages, Killough [27] 663
  - Lamp Accident in Belfast [25] 410
  - Land Acts—Tenants' Improvements—Case of Mr. J. Robb, &c. [22] 1433
  - Land Sub-Commissioner—Mr. Jeffcot [25] 289, 579
  - Larn Workhouse Lunatics [24] 779, 1545
  - Law Reports—House of Commons Library [23] 1435
  - Lunatics — Reports of the Resident Medical Superintendents [24] 460
  - M'Nally, Mr., Alleged Attack on [26] 14
  - Mew Island Fog Signal [23] 210
  - Newcastle Harbour [26] 123
  - Orange Disturbances—Attack on Catholics at Lurgan [25] 1226; [26] 14, 130, 1294
  - Orange Disturbances in County Antrim [23] 197, 198, 849; [24] 779
  - Publicans as Magistrates [25] 549, 673
  - Registration of Titles [23] 457; [24] 592
  - Town Parks and the Land Acts [22] 877, 1432
  - Voters—Rathlin Island [27] 1125
  - Wallace Estate, Lisburne [25] 12
  - Writs of Summonses [23] 1584
- Local Courts of Bankruptcy (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [23] 1551

M'CARTHY, Mr. Justin, *Longford, N.*
- Assassination of the President of the French Republic, Res. [26] 248
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 1390; 3R. [28] 347, 348
- Ways and Means, Com. [29] 131

M'DERMOTT, Mr. P., *Kilkenny, N.*
- Land Purchase in Kilkenny County [22] 313

M'GILLIGAN, Mr. P., *Fermanagh, S.*
- Clogher Valley Tramway [22] 567; [23] 1100
- Enniskillen Assizes—"No Bills" [27] 1130
- Enniskillen Royal School Estate [25] 1624; [27] 1128

[*cont.*

M'GILLIGAN, Mr. P.—*cont.*
- Fermanagh Magistrates [24] 216; [28] 244
- Fermanagh Telegraphic Service [25] 25
- Labourers' Cottages, Coleraine Union [28] 11
- Letterbreen Petty Sessions Court [26] 680
- Malicious Burning in Fermanagh [28] 243
- Teachers' Examinations [24] 764

M'HUGH, Mr. E., *Armagh, S.*
- Ballymena Union [26] 431
- Belfast Warehouse Company [25] 910
- Discount Corporation of Belfast [25] 573
- Eviction in County Armagh [26] 432
- Lurgan—Complaint against a Policeman [23] 17

M'HUGH, Mr. P. A., *Leitrim, N.*
- Dispensary Committees (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [23] 748
- Ireland
  - Dispensary Committees [23] 322
  - Drumshanbo Stationmaster [23] 1440
  - Labourers' Cottages, Sligo [23] 321, 1219
  - Manorhamilton Veterinary Inspector [23] 622
  - Sligo Post Office—Case of Carroll [29] 156
  - Teachers' Gratuities [23] 623
- Law Library, Four Courts (Ireland) Bill, Com. [23] 586, 587, 588
- Religious Tests (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [22] 455; 2R. [23] 588
- Wild Birds' Protection Act (1880) Amendment Bill, Com. [23] 1203

M'LAREN, Mr. C. P. B., *Leicester, Bosworth*
- Cheadle National School [23] 613, 972
- Glasgow Art Exhibition [23] 986
- Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, Com. [28] 859, 868
- Naval Contracts—Ships [24] 19
- Parochial Register of Electors in Leicestershire [24] 20

McLAREN, Mr. W. S. B., *Cheshire, Crewe*
- Cambridge Corporation Bill, Con. [24] 342, 346, 347, 357, 358
- District Councils Elections — Returning Officers [26] 12
- India—Contagious Diseases Acts [26] 439
- Ladies' Gallery [23] 1448; [25] 1224
- Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Con. [28] 505, 514, 518
- Rabies, Treatment of [26] 12

MADAGASCAR
- *British Indians, Alleged Outrage on*, Q. Mr. Naoroji; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 9 [28] 447
- *British Subjects*, Q. Mr. Tritton; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 12 [25] 921
- *United States Consul*, Q. Sir C. Dilke; A. Sir E. Grey *Mar* 15 [22] 315

MADEN, Mr. J. H., *Lancashire, Rossendale*
Cotton Trade (Forty-Eight Hours) Bill, Intro. [22] 456

Magistrates (see under title *Law, &c.*)
(For Scotch and Ireland Questions, *see under* titles SCOTLAND and IRELAND)

Magistrates' Qualification Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Dodd ; Read 1° *Mar* 30 [22] 1092
[Dropped]

MAGUIRE, Mr. J. R., *Clare, W.*
Canadian Cattle Importation [23] 1085 ; [24] 32
Kilrush Gas Company [22] 679
Kilrush Harbour [25] 412
Strokestown Medical Officer [28] 1255
Supply—Bechuanaland, Mashonaland, and Matabeleland [22] 425
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill [28] 1255

MAINS, Mr. J., *Donegal, N.*
Belfast Ship's Carpenter, Manslaughter by [23] 7
Channel Fleet—Visit to Lough Foyle [28] 29
Deep Sea Fisheries (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [22] 453
Derry—Irish Society's Estates — Case of Captain Coppin [26] 228
Derry Lunatic Asylum [25] 1625
High Sheriffs' Appointments [28] 247, 471
Irish Poor Law Administration—Irregularities [27] 163 ; [28] 471
Londonderry Gaol—Case of P. M'Keefery [22] 680
Magistrates and Public-House Licences [23] 1104
Recruiting for the Navy [26] 232

Mala Real Portugueza Company
Q. Mr. Crombie ; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 23 [29] 345

MALLOCK, Sir R., *Devon, Torquay*
Cardiff Corporation Bill, Con. [26] 674
Finance Bill, Com. [26] 487

MALTA
Fever, and Unsanitary Condition of Harbour, Q. and Obs. Viscount Sidmouth, Marquess of Ripon, Earl Spencer *July* 9 [26] 1175 ; Q. Sir S. King ; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 10, 1306 ; Q. Mr. S. Leighton ; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *July* 17 [27] 171
Naval Ordnance Stores, Q. Mr. Forwood ; A. Mr. E. Robertson *May* 29 [24] 1527
Tradesmen on H.M. Ships en route for England, Q. Mr. Kearley ; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Aug* 21 [29] 178
Valetta Sewage, Q. Captain Grice-Hutchinson ; A. Mr. Buxton *July* 17 [27] 168

Maltese Marriage Laws
Q. Mr. Rankin ; A. Mr. Buxton *April* 26 [23] 1435

MANDEVILLE, Mr. F., *Tipperary, S.*
Dublin Castle Officials, Age of [25] 29
Labourers' Cottages, Emly [28] 453
Police Barracks, Tipperary [28] 1232
Tipperary County Magistrates [24] 1418
Tipperary Telegraph Facilities [28] 1231

MANFIELD, Sir M. P., *Northampton*
Army Estimates—Warlike and other Stores—Contracts [26] 1001

Manning (see under titles *Merchant Shipping* and *Navy*)

Manorial Rights and Rates
Qs. Mr. A. C. Morton, Mr. Storey ; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 22 [24] 1006

Manuscripts Commission (see *Historical Manuscripts*)

Manx Legislature—Liquor Legislation
Q. Mr. Caine ; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 18 [25] 1353

MAPLE, Sir J. B., *Camberwell, Dulwich*
Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, 2R. [27] 855, 856, 922
Supply—Post Office Buildings [24] 931

Maplin Sands, Gun Practice Over
Q. Major Rasch ; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 19 [23] 836

MAPPIN, Sir F. T., *York, W.R., Hallamshire*
Science and Art Department Directory [24] 1530
Secondary Education Commission [25] 292

Margarine Act
Q. Mr. H. Plunkett ; A. Mr. Gardner *Mar* 16 [22] 441

Margarine Bill
c. Intro., Mr. H. Plunkett ; Read 1° *April* 10 [23] 111
[Dropped]

Margate—"Hall by the Sea"—Extension of Licence
Q. Mr. Cobb ; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 10 [28] 550

Marine Insurance Bill
l. Pres., Lord Herschell; Read 1ª *Aug* 17 [28] 1367

Market Gardeners' Compensation Bill
c. Intro., Sir E. Lechmere; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 460
Read 2° *May* 29 [24] 1635
Report from Standing Com. *July* 3 [26] 876
Withdrawn *July* 26 [27] 1108

Markets and Fairs (Weighing of Cattle) Act, 1887
Return ordered *April* 24 [23] 1328
(For Questions refer under SCOTLAND and IRELAND—*Cattle Weighbridges*)

Marking of Foreign and Colonial Meat
Q. Mr. Buchanan; A. Mr. Gardner *Mar* 13 [22] 141; Qs. Dr. Farquharson, Sir W. Wedderburn, Mr. Buchanan; As. Mr. Gardner *Mar* 20, 694; Qs. Sir H. Maxwell, Mr. S. Keay; As. Mr. Gardner *April* 3, 1254; Q. Mr. S. Keay; A. Mr. Gardner *April* 9, 1568; Qs. Mr. Jeffreys, Mr. Crombie, Dr. Farquharson, Mr. Stuart-Wortley, Sir M. H. Beach, Mr. Hunter; As. Mr. Mundella *April* 10 [23] 25; Qs. Sir H. Maxwell, Mr. Yerburgh; As. Mr. Gardner *April* 19, 842; Q. Mr. Jeffreys; A. Mr. Gardner *April* 19, 859; Q. Mr. J. W. Lowther; A. Mr. Gardner *May* 24 [24] 1177

Marking of Foreign and Colonial Produce
Motion for Select Com. (Lord Ribblesdale) *April* 16 [23] 449
Printing of Evidence, &c. *April* 23 [23] 1071
Exemption from, and Addition to, Com. *April* 27 [23] 1574; *May* 8 [24] 578
Message from the Commons for Copy of Report *June* 8 [25] 670
Report *July* 9 [26] 1183
Copy of Report, &c., for the Commons *Aug* 10 [28] 650; *Aug* 13, 755

Marriage Laws — Case before Mr. De Rutzen
Qs. Sir G. Osborne Morgan; As. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 20 [22] 701; *April* 2, 1108

Marriage Laws (United Kingdom)
Address for Return *July* 24 [27] 896
Return pres. *Aug* 22 [29] 344

Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Rees Davies; Read 1° *April* 27 [23] 1637
Withdrawn *June* 18 [25] 1436

Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill
l. Pres., Lord Kenry; Read 1ª *June* 1 [25] 161
2R. negatived—Contents 120; Not-Contents 129 *June* 15 [25] 1165

Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill
Qs. Mr. Caine, Mr. Darling; As. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 13 [23] 340

Marriages (Attendance of Registrars) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Perks; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 459 [Dropped]

MARTIN, Mr. R. B., *Worcester, Droitwich*
Finance Bill, Com. [25] 1429; [26] 466
Navy—Sale of Old Chains [24] 468

MASHONALAND (*see under* AFRICA)

Massage Scandals
Q. Mr. S. Smith; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 23 [27] 663

MATABELELAND (*see under* AFRICA)

MATHER, Mr. W., *Lancashire, S.E., Gorton*
Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, 2R. [23] 1355
Rating of Machinery Bill, 2R. [24] 745

Matrimonial and Divorce Causes
Return pres. *April* 16 [23] 592

MATTHEWS, Right Hon. H., *Birmingham, E.*
Finance Bill, Com., *cl.* 1 [25] 122; *cl.* 2, 385, 451, 453, 472, 485, 518, 613; *cl.* 3, 718, 722, 723; *cl.* 5, 933, 937, 944, 953; *cl.* 6, 1313, 1314; *cl.* 17 [26] 161, 164; Con., 1432, 1591, 1647, 1650
Mining Royalties, Rents, and Wayleaves, Res. [22] 1552
Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Con. [24] 1649
Prison-Made Goods for the Post Office [23] 1586
Supply—House of Commons Offices, Commission on [22] 354
Uganda—Captain Macdonald's Report [23] 620

MAURITIUS
Subsidising Mail Steamers—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *May* 25 [24] 1327

MAXWELL, Mr. W. J., *Dumfries-shire*
Local Government (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [24] 1029; Con. [28] 423, 487, 509, 518, 526, 530, 587, 592, 594, 595, 596, 602, 605, 616
Scotch Education Results Fees [24] 1186
Scotch Police Burgh Commissioners [22] 441

MAXWELL, Sir H. E., *Wigton*
Budget and Industrial Assurance Companies [24] 608
Business of the House [27] 1556
Canadian Cattle Importation, Report [28] 469
County Council Deputations to London [25] 401
Education Affairs and the Parish Councils [25] 40
Factories Acts, Exemptions from [27] 1123
Finance Bill, Com. [26] 488
Local Government (Scotland) Bill [28] 269; Motion for Com. [24] 1080; Con. [28] 521
Loch Ryan Oyster Fishery [24] 457
Marking of Foreign Meat [23] 842
Meat, Foreign and Home Fed [22] 1254
Sea Fisheries Regulation (Scotland) Bill, Intro. [23] 1068; 2R. [24] 197
Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [22] 1154, 1158, 1163; [23] 1020, 1608, 1610, 1611
Supply—South Kensington Museum [22] 1076
Wild Birds' Protection Act (1880) Amendment Bill, Intro. [22] 1316; 2R. [23] 169; Con., 1547, 1548

MAYO, Earl of
Gweebarra River Bridge [25] 281
Stranorlar and Glenties Railway [25] 786
Uganda—Motion for Papers [25] 146

MEATH, Earl of
Licensing Law Amendment Bill, 2R. [26] 933

MECCA
Reported Cholera Outbreak, Q. Sir H. Roscoe; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 4 [25] 286

Medway Dredging
Q. Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen; A. Mr. E. Robertson *July* 12 [26] 1480

MELLOR, RIGHT HON J. W. (Chairman of Committees and Ways and Means, and Deputy Speaker), *York, W.R., Sowerby*
Bristol Tramways Bill, Con. [27] 999
Cardiff Corporation Bill, Con. [26] 665
Standing Orders, Amendment of [28] 1220
Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill, Con. [27] 1375

[*cont.*

MELLOR, Right Hon. J. W.—*cont.*
Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill, Con. [27] 1382, 1384
Von Roemer's Resumption of British Nationality Bill, 2R. [28] 1219

(*Rulings as Deputy Speaker*)
A Motion for Adjournment lapsed at 12 o'clock. The Motion having been made again after 12 o'clock, the Member was in Order *Mar* 12 [22] 130
The Member was in Order in discussing the absence of Home Rule from the Queen's Speech *Mar* 13 [22] 168
The Deputy Speaker could not say that a Member was out of Order in quoting the words of a Minister spoken during the current Session in the House of Lords *Mar* 13 [22] 185
There was no Question before the House, but it was usual to allow the Leaders of responsible Parties to make observations on such occasions. (*Discussion as to the result of Mr. Labouchere's Amendt. to the Queen's Speech*) *Mar* 14 [22] 266
It was usual to allow questions to be postponed if the Minister wished it *Mar* 15 [22] 320
Introduction of and Ballotting for Bills—Statement as to numbers *Mar* 15 [22] 350
The quotations were ruled out of Order in a question, because the Member was giving information instead of asking for it *Mar* 16 [22] 448
The hon. Member, although he had given notice of his Bill on Monday, and his name appeared in the Ballot, could not bring in his Bill, as he had omitted to give fresh notice *Mar* 16 [22] 461
The claims of engineer officers in respect of pay could not be dealt with on the Motion as to dockyard labour and wages *Mar* 19 [22] 637
The discussion of a subject was out of Order when there was a Bill before the House on the subject *Mar* 30 [22] 1060
Miscellaneous Rulings [22] 322, 688

(*Rulings as Chairman of Committees*)
Army Estimates [26] 800, 826, 827, 831, 859, 995, 996, 997, 1036, 1037, 1141, 1142, 1149
Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, Con. [28] 41, 42, 43, 47, 49, 63, 76, 97, 98, 216, 218, 374, 375, 391, 401, 402
Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Arbitration Bill [27] 1029, 1030, 1031, 1034, 1047, 1048, 1063, 1498, 1548
Finance Bill [25] 348, 437, 456, 457, 877, 878, 944, 972, 974, 982, 1157, 1158, 1274, 1289, 1290, 1307, 1415, 1416, 1425; [26] 48, 51, 172, 173, 327, 340, 371, 486, 608, 720, 726, 765
Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, Com. [28] 801, 808, 815, 816, 839, 840, 850, 1004, 1005, 1010, 1014, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1025, 1028

[*cont.*

MELLOR, Right Hon. J. W.—*cont.*

(*Rulings as Chairman of Committees*)—cont.

Parochial Electors (Registration Acceleration) Bill [26] 1152, 1155, 1156, 1161

Railway and Canal Traffic Bill [28] 788, 792

The Amendt. (*Finance Bill*) was out of Order, as there had been no preliminary Resolution passed empowering the House to make what would be equivalent to an increase of Legacy Duty *May* 24 [24] 1219

The Member was out of Order in advancing reasons why the Amendt. was put down *May* 24 [24] 1224

The Chairman could not answer a question in regard to a Res. and its Amendts. (*Finance Bill*), the terms of which he was unacquainted with *May* 24 [24] 1227, 1228

When the Amendts. were reached the Chairman would give his ruling upon them *May* 24 [24] 1231

Discussion of a question on an Amendt. which was not intended to raise it *May* 24 [24] 1247, 1250

Manuscript Amendts. brought to the Chairman at the last moment *May* 24 [24] 1250

The Amendt. could only be put from the Chair, and either accepted or rejected *June* 5 [25] 435

The general question had been settled, and could not be raised again; but it was possible to modify the propositions at the end of the Clause *June* 5 [25] 441

Writing Amendts. at the Table was an inconvenient practice *June* 5 [25] 475

Discussion of general questions on particular Army Votes *June* 13 [25] 994, 1001, 1035, 1036

Counting the House before 4 o'clock on Wednesday *June* 20 [25] 1571

If the Amendt. were pressed and negatived, it would interfere with the Amendt. on Clause 31 (*Finance Bill*) [26] 470

There was no difference between The Speaker's ruling and Mr. Mellor's; the ruling had been submitted to The Speaker *July* 2 [26] 741

The Amendt. was out of Order, as the Com. had come to a decision on the point included in the Amendt. *July* 26 [27] 1103, 1104

It was out of Order to move an Amendt. to a Schedule which had not been brought up. The Member brought up an Amendt. and a new Schedule *July* 26 [27] 1061

An Amendment to negative the whole clause was out of Order; the Member could vote against the clause, and bring up a new clause *Aug* 3 [28] 65

A Member having once moved to report Progress could not do so again *Aug* 20 [29] 147

MELLOR, Right Hon. J. W.—*cont.*

(*Rulings as Chairman of Committees*)—cont.

Miscellaneous Rulings [22] 1677, 1680; [23] 561, 567, 572, 1782, 1783; [24] 1299, 1301, 1325, 1328; [25] 238, 239; [28] 1422, 1423, 1424, 1427, 1428, 1438, 1439, 1446, 1469, 1547, 1588; [29] 46, 47, 60, 73, 74, 78, 137, 140

Supply

The question of pluralists did not seem relevant to the Vote on the House of Commons Offices, and he did not think it would be in Order *Mar* 15 [22] 353

It had been stated that the Vote did not apply to pluralists, and therefore the Member was not in Order *Mar* 15 [22] 355

It was in accordance with the Rules of the House for an Amendt. to a Vote on Account to be moved, although the Motion prevented one-half of the Vote being discussed or amended *Mar* 21 [22] 803

When Members gave notice of Amendts. the Chair called upon them according to their Notices, but on a Vote on Account any Member who was in possession of the Com. was entitled to move a reduction unless he gave way *Mar* 21 [22] 806

The Chairman's duty was to put from the Chair every Amendt. moved, and, whether it was withdrawn or not, putting it from the Chair had the same effect *Mar* 21 [22] 806

The Chairman did not see how the question of the capitulations in Turkey could be dealt with in *Supply* under the Vote for Diplomatic and Consular Buildings *Mar* 30 [22] 1090

Members could only call attention to the administrative acts of the Presidents of the Board of Agriculture and the Board of Trade *Aug* 18 [28] 1521, 1523, 1546

Mercantile Marine Fund (see *Light Dues*)

Merchandise Marks Act—Importation of Foreign Goods (see under *Trade, Board of*)

Merchandise Marks Act (1887) Amendment Bill

l. Pres., Earl of Denbigh; Read 1ª *May* 28 [24] 1367

Read 2ª *June* 11 [25] 764

Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *June* 18, 1334

Motion for Select Com. agreed to *June* 22 [26] 3

[*cont.*

Merchandise Marks Acts (1888 and 1891) Amendment (Cutlery) Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Coleridge; Read 1° *Mar* 20 [22] 786
Read 2° *May* 2 [24] 185
Order for Com. read and discharged; Com- to Select Com. *May* 23, 1132
Select Com. nominated *June* 29 [26] 656

Merchandise Marks Acts (1887 and 1891) Amendment (Cutlery) Bill

Q. Mr. Stuart-Wortley; A. Mr. Burt *July* 12 [26] 1481

Merchandise Marks (Files) Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Stuart-Wortley; Read 1° *Mar* 29 [22] 999
Withdrawn *May* 2 [24] 197

Merchandise Marks (Prosecutions) Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Gardner; Read 1° *May* 28 [24] 1503
Read 2° *June* 15 [25] 1319
Con. in Com.; Reported; Read 3°, and passed *June* 22 [26] 103
l. Read 1ª *June* 25, 114
Read 2ª *June* 29, 559
Com.; Reported, &c. *July* 2, 661
Reported from Standing Com. *July* 3, 779
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 5, 942
Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 19]

MERCHANT SHIPPING

Apprentices, Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 12 [25] 914
Atlantic Liners, Alleged Racing by, Q. Mr. Cohen; A. Mr. Burt *May* 28 [24] 1397
"*Balkannah*"—*Cruelty to a Seaman*, Qs. Mr. Havelock Wilson, Mr. Darling, Mr. Wolff; As. Mr. Mundella *April* 10 [23] 21
"*Bannockburn*"—*Alleged Manslaughter of a Seaman*, Q. Mr. Havelock Wilson; A. Mr. Burt *April* 26 [23] 1424
Board of Trade Inquiries—Appointment of Engineers as Assessors, Q. Sir C. Cameron; A. Mr. Burt *April* 26 [23] 1416
Burial of Seamen at Antwerp, Q. Mr. C. Williams; A. Sir E. Grey *July* 13 [26] 1557
Copy pres. May 29 [24] 1636
"*Countess of Aberdeen*," *Loss of the*, Q. Mr. Paul; A. Mr. Burt *April* 26 [23] 1424
Crimping, Qs. Sir G. Baden-Powell; As. Mr. Bryce *June* 26 [26] 220; *July* 10, 1301
Dead British Sailors on the French Coast, Q. Mr. T. Chamberlayne; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 19 [25] 1467
Derelicts (see that title)
Desertions from British Ships, Qs. Mr. Havelock Wilson, Sir G. Baden-Powell; As. Mr. Mundella *April* 20 [23] 981

[cont.

MERCHANT SHIPPING—cont.

Dock Labourers, Unemployed, and the Shipping Federation, Qs. Mr. K. Hardie, Mr. Havelock Wilson; As. Mr. Burt *April* 26 [23] 1407
Emigrants on German Steamers, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 12 [25] 909
Emigrants on the "Havel," Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 12 [25] 910
Engineer Examinations by the Board of Trade, Q. Mr. Howell; A. Mr. Mundella *May* 7 [24] 463
Expenditure and the Estimates, Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Mr. Mundella *Mar* 13 [22] 139
Explosives, Shipping of at Plymouth, Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 13 [26] 1568; Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *July* 20 [27] 547
Filey Brigg—Loss of the "Chilian," Q. Mr. J. E. Ellis; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 23 [23] 1080
Fishing Boat Lights, Qs. Mr. Crombie, Mr. G. Bowles, Mr. J. Lowther; As. Mr. Mundella *May* 3 [24] 203
Harbours of Refuge on the East Coast of Yorkshire, Q. Mr. Holden; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 5 [22] 1445
"*Helvetia*," *Case of the*, Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 10 [26] 1301
"*Highbury*," *Loss of the*, Q. Mr. Havelock Wilson; A. Mr. Burt *May* 22 [24] 1001
"*Hondeklip*," *Loss of the*, Q. Mr. Sweetman; A. Mr. Mundella *Mar* 13 [22] 149
Hoylake, Casualties to Vessels at, Q. Colonel Cotton-Jodrell; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 30 [23] 1664
International Code Book, Q. Mr. Tomlinson; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 20 [29] 19
"*Jasper*," *Stranding of the*, Q. Sir J. Leng; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 8 [25] 674
Labour Commission Report, Q. Mr. Buchanan; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 21 [29] 169
Lifeboats, Lighthouses, and *Lightships* (see those titles)
Life-Saving Apparatus, Q. Mr. Luttrell; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 7 [28] 238
Life-Saving Appliances Act—Board of Trade Rules, Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 9 [22] 1252
Life-Saving Appliances, Copy pres. *Mar* 13 [22] 256
Light Dues (see that title)
Loss of Life and Property at Sea—Official Inquiries, Q. Mr. Heneage; A. Mr. Bryce *May* 31 [25] 37
Mail Contracts—Fair Contract Clause, Qs. Mr. M. Austin, Mr. Bodkin; As. Mr. A. Morley *May* 25 [24] 1275
Manning Committee, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 16 [23] 465; Qs. Sir G. Baden-Powell, Mr. Cayzer, Mr. Weir; As. Mr. Mundella *May* 10 [24] 786; Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Mr. Burt *May* 24, 1166; Q. Mr. Baird; A. Mr. Burt *May* 28, 1394
Missing Vessels, Q. Mr. Heneage; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 19 [23] 860

[cont.

MERCHANT SHIPPING—cont.

Moorings, Private, in Public Roadsteads, Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 9 [28] 468

Navigation and Shipping, Copy pres. *May* 28 [24] 1504

Offences on the High Seas, Q. Mr. T. Chamberlayne; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 24 [29] 416

Overcrowding Passenger Steamers, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. Mundella *May* 10 [24] 770

Passengers from Foreign Steamers at Queenstown, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 17 [27] 165

"*Penarth,*" *Loss of the,* Q. Mr. Havelock Wilson; A. Mr. Burt *May* 22 [24] 1000

Pilotage, Copy pres. *May* 10 [24] 912

"*Port Yarrock,*" *Loss of the,* Qs. Mr. Provand, Sir J. Gorst, Mr. H. J. Wilson, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Mr. Mundella *April* 2 [22] 1104
Motion for Adjournment of the House (Mr. Havelock Wilson) *Mar* 29 [22] 906

Rule of the Road at Sea and Steam Trawlers, Qs. Sir S. King, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Mr. Bryce *June* 7 [25] 563

Seamen's Fund, Account pres. *July* 10 [26] 1392

Ships' Provisions, Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 23 [29] 348

"*Sobriety*" *Fatality,* Q. Mr. Heneage; A. Mr. Burt *May* 24 [24] 1159; Q. Mr. Heneage; A. Mr. Bryce *May* 31 [25] 37

Training Boys for the Sea, Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 26 [27] 1000

Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Neville; Read 1° *Mar* 19 [22] 676

[Dropped]

Merchant Shipping Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Mundella; Read 1° *April* 2 [22] 1216
Read 2° *April* 10 [23] 106
Order for Com. read, and discharged; Com. to Joint Com. *April* 11, 170
Com. to Joint Com. on Statute Law Revision and Consolidation Bills *April* 16, 591
Con. in Com. (Re-com.); R.P. *July* 25 [27] 950; *July* 30, 1361
Order for Re-com. deferred *Aug* 3 [28] 114
Con. in Com. (Re-com.), and reported; Read 3°, and passed *Aug* 7, 363

l. Read 1ª *Aug* 13, 757
Read 2ª *Aug* 16, 1164
Com.; Reported *Aug* 17, 1377
Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 20 [29] 9
Royal Assent *Aug* 25

[57° & 58° Vic. c. 60]

Merchant Shipping Bill
Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 10 [26] 1300; Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 9 [28] 460

Meriall's Charity, Swanscombe
Q. Mr. Howell; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 23 [29] 371

Mersey Docks (see under *Agriculture*)

Messengers (see under *Civil Service* and *Customs*)

Metalliferous Mines (see under *Mines*)

METROPOLIS

Accidents—Police Removing Dead Bodies, Q. Mr. Lough; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 28 [24] 1401

Bakehouses, Q. Mr. Barrow; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 2 [22] 1106; Qs. Mr. Barrow, Dr. Farquharson, Mr. J. Burns; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 6, 1507

Billingsgate Tolls, Q. Mr. H. Foster; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 27 [27] 1133; Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 17 [28] 1387

Bridewell Prison, Q. Sir C. Cameron; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 3 [24] 223

Building Bye-Laws Bill, Qs. Mr. Howell, Sir A. Rollit; As. Mr. Asquith, Mr. Speaker *April* 2 [22] 1107; Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 30 [27] 1256; Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 10 [28] 553

Cab Accidents, Q. Sir J. Joicey; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 12 [25] 917

Cab Licences, Q. Mr. E. H. Bayley; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 2 [26] 687

Cab Strike, Q. Mr. Lough; A. Mr. G. Russell *May* 24 [24] 1178; Qs. Mr. Boulnois, Mr. Webster; As. Mr. G. Russell *May* 24, 1180; Qs. Mr. Lough, Mr. Webster; As. Mr. Asquith *May* 25, 1282; Q. Mr. Lough; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 1 [25] 176; Qs. Mr. Boulnois, Mr. C. Fenwick, Mr. E. H. Bayley, Mr. Lough; As. Mr. Asquith *June* 7, 559; Q. Mr. Lough; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 3 [26] 788
Debate on, *May* 25 [24] 1298

City of London Parochial Charities, Q. Mr. Howell; A. Mr. F. S. Stevenson *Aug* 6 [28] 142; Return ordered *Aug* 10, 652

City Rate, Q. Mr. A. Gibbs; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 2 [27] 1570

County Council (see that title)

County of London
Agricultural Official Forms, Q. Mr. Benn; A. Mr. Gardner *June* 8 [25] 691
Inland Revenue Establishment Licences, Q. Mr. Benn; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 7 [25] 590
Main Roads Expenditure, Q. Mr. Benn; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 8 [25] 685

Cycle Riding Accidents, Qs. Mr. R. Shaw, Lord R. Churchill; As. Mr. Asquith *May* 28 [24] 1409

District Schools (see under *Local Government Board—Pauper Children*)

[*cont.*

METROPOLIS—cont.

District Surveyors, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 30 [23] 1673

Finsbury Estate, Q. Mr. J. Rowlands; A. Mr. Leveson-Gower *April* 17 [23] 627

Glove Fight near Clapham, Q. Mr. Thornton; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 8 [24] 600

Hampstead House Construction, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 30 [27] 1254

Horses, Cruelty to, Q. Mr. B. Robinson; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 10 [23] 16; Qs. Captain Donelan, Mr. H. L. W. Lawson; As. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 3 [28] 15

Local Government Act (1888), Copy pres. *April* 10 [23] 112

Magistrates—Case of Elizabeth Saunders, Q. Mr. P. Williams; A. Sir J. Rigby *July* 27 [27] 1142; Q. Mr. P. Williams; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 31, 1398

Middlesex Records, Q. Mr. Picton; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 3 [24] 215

Music Halls—Dangerous Performances, Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 29 [24] 1528

Owners of Land Return, Q. Mr. A. C. Morton; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 3 [24] 232

Parks (see that title)

Police

- *Boots*, Qs. Captain Norton, Mr. J. Rowlands, Mr. Hanbury; As. Mr. Asquith *June* 21 [25] 1640; Qs. Captain Norton; As. Mr. Asquith *June* 25 [26] 129; *June* 29, 576; *July* 6, 1074; *July* 12, 1467; *July* 16 [27] 28; *July* 19, 377 Debate on, in Com. of *Supply*, *Aug* 18 [28] 1591, &c.
- *C Division*, Q. Mr. R. Cooke; A. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 20 [22] 690
- *Compulsory Re-Vaccination*, Q. Mr. Hopwood; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 3 [28] 9
- *Ex-Inspector Ruff*, Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Mr. G. Russell *May* 24 [24] 1163
- *Police at Government Factories*, Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 31 [25] 31
- *Uniforms*, Q. Mr. E. H. Bayley; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 12 [23] 187
- *Vote for*, and Debate on *Aug* 18 [28] 1590, &c.

Police Courts

- *Business of*, Q. Mr. J. Stuart; A. Mr. G. Russell *May* 31 [25] 10; Q. Mr. Whitmore; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 25 [26] 120
- *Cell Accommodation*, Q. Mr. Pickersgill; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 14 [25] 1090
- *Clerks*, Qs. Mr. H. S. Wright, Mr. Stuart-Wortley; As. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 15 [22] 343
- References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Mar* 29 [22] 993
- *Worship Street*, Q. Mr. J. Stuart; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 6 [26] 1078

Prison Accommodation, Q. Mr. A. C. Morton; As. Mr. Asquith *April* 19 [23] 853; Q. Mr. Pickersgill; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 23, 1100

[*cont.*

METROPOLIS—cont.

Prisons Committee, Qs. Mr. Gully, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Dillon; As. Mr. Asquith *May* 28 [24] 1411

St. Botolph, Aldgate, Charities, Q. Sir A. Scoble; A. Mr. Acland *June* 5 [25] 399

Sewers, Suffocation in, Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 8 [24] 597

Stage Carriage Licences, Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Mr. G. Russell *May* 10 [24] 777

Workshops, Inspectors of, Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 20 [29] 18

Metropolis Local Management (Saint Paul, Deptford) Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Darling; Read 1° *May* 3 [24] 332 [Dropped]

Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill

c. Intro., Mr. G. Russell; Read 1° *April* 9 [22] 1687
Read 2° *April* 13 [23] 426
Read 3°, and passed *April* 25, 1383
l. Read 1ª *April* 26, 1406
Read 2ª *June* 12 [25] 896
Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *June* 15, 1204
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 18, 1337
Royal Assent *July* 3
[57° & 58° Vic. c. xlii]

Metropolitan Railway (see under *Railways, Underground*)

MEYSEY-THOMPSON, Sir H., *Stafford, Handsworth*

- Election Procedure [26] 234
- Finance Bill, Com. [25] 1146, 1151; [26] 610, 611; Con., 1622
- Period of Qualification and Elections Bill, 2R. [24] 296, 298
- Returning Officers' Charges [24] 1531

Middlesex Records

Q. Mr. Picton; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 3 [24] 215

MIDLETON, Lord

- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [28] 699

MILDMAY, Mr. F. B., *Devon, Totnes*

- Coast Communication between Start Bay and Dartmouth [27] 1023
- Dartmoor Ponies, Disease among [24] 467
- Destruction of Wrecks [23] 1212
- Personal Explanation—"Breaking a Pair" [24] 1194
- Salcombe Ferry—Carrying Postmen and Mails [27] 1025
- Start Point Foghorn [27] 26

Military Prisons
Copy pres. May 28 [24] 1504

Militia (see under *Army*)

Millbank Prison Site
Qs. Mr. Stuart-Wortley, Mr. H. L. W. Lawson; As. Mr. H. Gladstone *April* 26 [23] 1423

MILNER, Sir F. G., *Notts, Bassetlaw*
Finance Bill, Com., *cl.* 23 [26] 303; *cl.* 27, 770
Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, Com. [28] 1021, 1022

MINCH, Mr. M. J., *Kildare, S.*
Police Prosecutions at Athy [27] 1003

Mineral Oils (see *Petroleum Acts*)

Minerals Statistics—Bunker Coals
Q. Major Jones; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 17 [28] 1385

Mines
Albion Colliery Explosion, Qs. Mr. A. Thomas, Mr. K. Hardie; As. Mr. Asquith, Sir W. Harcourt *June* 25 [26] 136; Qs. Mr. Woods, Mr. Pritchard-Morgan; As. Mr. Asquith *June* 28, 426; Q. Mr. Pritchard-Morgan; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 28, 453; Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 29, 567; Q. Mr. Pritchard-Morgan; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 3, 790
Boskill, Mr., Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; As. Mr. Asquith *July* 17 [27] 176
Hall's, Mr., Report, Qs. Mr. Pritchard-Morgan, Mr. D. A. Thomas; As. Mr. Asquith *July* 5 [26] 953
Assistant Inspectors, Q. Mr. Atherley-Jones; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 16 [28] 1248
Bunker Coals, Q. Major Jones; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 17 [28] 1385
Celfynydd Colliery Explosion, Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 3 [28] 19
Checkweighers, Q. Mr. D. Crawford; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 4 [25] 293
Coal (*Annual Output*), Address for Return *June* 8 [25] 760
Coal Dust Explosion, Q. Mr. J. E. Ellis; A. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 15 [22] 314; Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 5 [26] 955; Q. Mr. J. E. Ellis; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 19 [27] 365; Qs. Mr. Woods, Mr. D. A. Thomas; As. Mr. Asquith *July* 26 [27] 1007
Coal Strike in Scotland, Qs. Mr. Wason, Mr. Stuart-Wortley, Mr. J. Wilson, Mr. H. Smith; As. Mr. Asquith *July* 26 [27] 1016; Q. Mr. D. Crawford; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 10 [28] 554; Q. Mr. Paul; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 24 [29] 420
Department of Mines, Q. Mr. Pritchard-Morgan; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 5 [26] 958; Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 24 [27] 800

[*cont.*

Mines—cont.
Fatalities—Inquiries, Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 24 [27] 800
Featherstone Miners' Riots—Claims for Compensation, Q. Mr. Nussey; A. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 19 [22] 576
Inspectors—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 17 [28] 1434, &c.
Inspectors' Reports, Q. Mr. Stuart-Wortley; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 9 [22] 1574
Lanarkshire Accident, Qs. Mr. Caldwell; As. Mr. Asquith *July* 12 [26] 1480; *July* 16 [27] 23; *July* 26, 1014
Metalliferous Mines, Inspectorship of—Mr. Leck, Q. Mr. J. W. Lowther; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 30 [27] 1242; Qs. Mr. J. W. Lowther, Mr. Woods, Mr. Stuart-Wortley; As. Mr. Asquith *July* 31, 1404; Qs. Sir S. Northcote, Mr. Hozier, Mr. D. A. Thomas, Mr. Tomlinson, Mr. Bartley; As. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 3 [28] 13
References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *July* 31 [27] 1447, &c.; *Aug* 17 [28] 1436, &c.
Practical Miners as Inspectors, Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 2 [27] 1570
Regulation of Quarries, Q. Mr. C. Williams; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 26 [26] 234
Slate Quarries, Inspecting, Qs. Mr. B. Roberts; As. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 10 [28] 563; *Aug* 16, 1239
Mr. Williams, &c., Amendt. and Debate in Com. of *Supply*, *Aug* 17 [28] 1455, &c.
Sub-Assistant Inspectors, Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 17 [27] 176
Wyndham Colliery, Q. Mr. Woods; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 31 [27] 1391

Mines (Eight Hours) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Roby; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 450
Read 2° *April* 25 [23] 1329
Com., R.P. *April* 30 [23] 1784; *Aug* 13 [28] 800; *Aug* 14, 1001
Withdrawn *Aug* 15, 1150

Mines (Eight Hours) Bill
Q. Mr. Roby; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 30 [23] 1685; Q. Mr. Provand; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 3 [24] 238; Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 10, 799; Qs. Mr. Legh, Mr. Bartley; As. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 9 [26] 1195; Qs. Mr. Tomlinson, Mr. D. A. Thomas; As. Mr. Asquith *July* 24 [27] 792; Q. Mr. J. A. Pease; A. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 24, 806; Qs. Mr. Woods, Mr. J. Wilson; As. Sir W. Harcourt *Aug* 7 [28] 253

Mines (Eight Hours) (Wales) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. D. A. Thomas; Read 1° *May* 3 [24] 332
[Dropped]

Mines, Royalties, and Easements Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Atherley-Jones; Read 1° *April* 27 [23] 1638
[Dropped]

Mining Accidents (Scotland) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Baird; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 457 [Dropped]

Mining Rights—Land Grants in Wales (see under WALES)

Mining Royalties and Wayleaves
Q. Mr. Woods; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 12 [23] 216
Res. (Mr. Woods) *April* 6 [22] 1523

Mint (including Coinage)
Vote for, Aug 17 [28] 1482

Mints, Closing of, in India (see INDIA)

MOLLOY, Mr. B. C., *King's Co., Birr*
Admiralty Second Division Clerks [29] 366
Admiralty Town Establishments [29] 365
Birr Barracks Scandal [27] 379, 1026
Clare and Banagher Railway [24] 367
Female Factory Inspectors [25] 1632
Labourers' Cottages, Birr [25] 1474
Whitehall—Hired Writers [29] 171

Money-Lending Banks
Q. Mr. Yerburgh; A. Mr. Mundella *May* 10 [24] 811

MONK BRETTON, Lord
Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, 2R. [28] 1160

MONKSWELL, LORD (Lord in Waiting)
Agrarian Crime—Cork Murder [23] 1559, 1560, 1561
Canal Tolls and Charges Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill, Com. [28] 891
Chimney Sweepers Bill, Com. [27] 1114
Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [28] 1374
Dublin Bankruptcy Court, Alleged Perjury in [28] 1374
Gweebarra River Bridge [25] 281
Industrial and Provident Societies Act, 1893, Amendment Bill, 2R. [24] 577
Irish National Federation and Evicted Farms [28] 1366
Juries (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill, 2R. [28] 1376
Law Library, Four Courts (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [23] 1210
Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill, 2R. [25] 389
Railway and Canal Traffic Bill, 2R. [28] 1376
Sanitary Condition of Howth and Clontarf [23] 1212, 1406
Technical Education, Res. [23] 1656
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [28] 695
Trustee Act, 1893, Amendment Bill, 2R. [23] 449

MONTAGU, Hon. J. SCOTT-, *Hants, New Forest*
Herz, Dr. Cornelius [28] 998
Navy Estimates—Works, Buildings, and Repairs [23] 304
Sopley British School [23] 201

MONTAGU, Sir S., *Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel*
Finance Bill, Com. [26] 140, 143; Con., 1385; [27] 39
London Markets Bill, Intro. [22] 455
Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 1307
Weights and Measures, Select Com. [26] 202

Moorings, Private, in Public Roadsteads
Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 9 [28] 469

MORE, Mr. R. J., *Shropshire, Ludlow*
Welsh Cathedral Churches [23] 1668

MORGAN, Mr. J. LLOYD-, *Carmarthen, W.*
Musketry Examination Papers [22] 445

MORGAN, Mr. W. PRITCHARD-, *Merthyr Tydvil*
Albion Colliery Explosion [26] 427, 453, 790, 953
Mineral Rights—Grants to Sir W. Herbert [26] 134, 241, 696, 957
Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, Com. [28] 1025, 1027, 1028, 1029, 1030
Mines, Minister of [26] 958
Mining Royalties, Rents, and Wayleaves, Res. [22] 1555
Privilege — Voluntary Conveyances Bill, Blocking of, by Mr. Perks [23] 638, 643, 646, 648

MORGAN, Right Hon. Sir G. Osborne, *Denbighshire, E.*
Army (Annual) Bill [23] 290
Business of the House, Res. [22] 1637; [25] 64
Church of England Marriage Laws [22] 701, 1108
Drunken Publicans, Prosecution of [23] 8
Established Church (Wales) Bill [23] 219
  Motion for Leave [23] 1498
  Translation of into Welsh [24] 36
Great Western Railway (No. 1) Bill [25] 898; Instr. to Com., 1059
Ruabon Insanitary Condition [23] 610
Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [22] 1148; [23] 1598
Telegraphic Mistakes [27] 16
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Com. [27] 1594

- MORLEY, Earl of (Chairman of Committees)
  - Betterment—Town Improvements, Res. [23] 446
    - Select Com. Report [27] 343, 348
  - Cambridge Corporation Bill, 3R. [25] 1329
  - East London Water Bill, 2R. [26] 205
  - East London Water Bill, Southwark and Vauxhall Water Bill, West Middlesex Water Bill, 2R. [26] 523
  - House of Lords Offices—Select Com. Report [25] 1330
  - Land Transfer Bill [27] 156
  - Local Government Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill, 2R. [25] 390
  - Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12) Bill, Com. [26] 1045
  - London County Council (Tower Bridge Southern Approach) Bill, 2R. [25] 1321, 1322; 3R. [28] 229, 231
  - London Streets and Buildings Bill, 2R. [27] 645
  - Thames Conservancy Bill, 3R. [28] 232

- MORLEY, Right Hon. Arnold (Postmaster General), *Nottingham, E.*
  - American Mail Service—Route, &c. [22] 1506; [23] 844; [24] 604, 773, 1182; [25] 6
  - Annual Leave [28] 764
  - Annual Report [28] 16
  - Atlantic Steamship Routes [25] 310
  - Australian Mail Contract [24] 1177
  - Australian Mails and the United States Riots [26] 1572; [27] 364
  - Auxiliary Postmen—Christmas Duty [29] 20
  - Bank Holidays and Post Office Employés [24] 462
  - Book Post [23] 626
  - Brynmawr Postmaster and Political Organisations [27] 161
  - Canadian Pacific Railway Company—Parcels from Hong Kong [25] 287
  - Channel Islands Mail Service [29] 161
  - Classification in the Post Office [27] 1010
  - Coldbath Fields Money Order Office [25] 408; [26] 687; [27] 1121, 1582; [28] 20
  - Contracts—Prison-Made Goods [24] 1406; [25] 1089, 1222
  - Discharged Soldiers as Postmen [23] 636; [24] 22
  - District and Parish Councils—Post Office Officials [29] 25
  - Express Letters [29] 373
  - Express Messenger Service [22] 138
  - Halfpenny Postal Rate [23] 848
  - Idle Post Office [22] 697
  - Inland Branch, General Post Office [22] 1513
  - Insurance Department of the Post Office [28] 17
  - International Reply Letter Cards [28] 1389

[*cont.*

- Morley, Right Hon. Arnold—*cont.*
  - Ireland
    - Ballygurteen Postal Arrangements [28] 249
    - Baltimore Mails [23] 985
    - Belfast [22] 350; [27] 384, 1579; [28] 760; [29] 385
    - Boherbee Post Office [25] 1077
    - Breenagh Post Office [24] 465
    - Castle Cove Arrangements [23] 1433
    - Clare County Mail Cart Service [28] 250
    - Clothing Contracts [22] 339, 1441
    - Cork, West [23] 11, 830
    - Drumreilly Arrangements [24] 464
    - Dublin [22] 690; [23] 965, 966, 974; [24] 1160, 1182, 1529; [25] 165, 177, 307; [26] 1065; [27] 1397; [28] 11, 250, 466; [29] 154, 160
    - Dublin and Cork Travelling Post Office Sorting Clerks [27] 555
    - Enniskillen Post Office [23] 969; [25] 163
    - Fermanagh Telegraphic Service [25] 25
    - Finnor Postal Facilities [22] 863
    - Hilltown Telegraphic Service [22] 865
    - Holyhead and Kingstown Mails [26] 233
    - Killybegs Harbour [24] 1184
    - Leitrim (South) Mails [26] 1564
    - Limerick Postal and Telegraph Staffs [22] 310; [26] 234
    - London and Dublin Mail Service [23] 205, 206
    - Louisburgh Telegraph Office [23] 1228
    - Mail Cart Drivers [25] 166
    - Mail Contract—New Tenders [24] 604; [25] 22, 32, 569; [26] 234
    - Mail Trains—Third-Class Carriages [29] 386
    - Mails—London and North Western Railway Company [24] 213
    - Miltown Malbay Arrangements [25] 900
    - Newcastle Post Office [22] 350
    - New Ross Postal Arrangements [27] 1013; [28] 245
    - Newry Post Office [24] 37
    - Portadown [23] 192; [25] 680
    - Portrush Letter Delivery [29] 386
    - Sligo—Case of Carroll [29] 157
    - Stationary Clerks [24] 21
    - Stokestown and Elphin Postal Arrangements [23] 1077
    - Stoneyford Postmastership [28] 443
    - Stranorlar and Strabane Railway [27] 1120
    - Telegraph Employés [23] 863; [28] 466
    - Tipperary Telegraph Facilities [28] 1232
    - Wexford Letter Deliveries [25] 1639
  - Japan Parcel Post [25] 566
  - Japanese Mail Arrangements [26] 447
  - Letter Boxes on Trains [27] 1127
  - Liverpool Telegraph Office [23] 853, 1679; [27] 1392
  - London Postal Appointments [25] 909
  - Lottery Advertisements [23] 1221
  - Mail Contracts—Shipping Companies—Fair Contract Clause [24] 1275
  - Manchester Post Office—Christmas Day Pay [22] 1101
  - Metropolitan Countermen and Telegraph Clerks [22] 1569; [26] 436
  - Newspaper Postage [23] 853, 1679

[*cont.*

MORLEY, Right Hon. Arnold—*cont.*

- Pacific Cable Route [27] 363
- Penny Postage and the Colonies [27] 1397
- Penny Postage to the United States [26] 222
- Post Cards—Adhesive Stamps [28] 440, 557; [29] 370, 417
- Post Office Envelopes [27] 1253
- Post Office Savings Banks Consolidation Bill [26] 961
- Postal Orders, Theft of [24] 1408
- Postmasters—Private Agencies [24] 601
- Prison-Made Goods for the Post Office [23] 1586
- Queen's Birthday Holiday [22] 1588
- Re-directed Postal Matter [25] 23, 555; [27] 380
- Registered Letters—Extra Postage Charge [24] 1533
- Rural Postmen [22] 682; [27] 1387
- Salcombe Ferry—Carrying Postmen and Mails [27] 1025
- Savings Banks
  - Deposits and Investments [22] 558, 868; [25] 794
  - Thrift among School Children [23] 334
- Savings Banks (Societies) Bill, Intro. [24] 910; Com. [25] 1162, 1164, 1315; Withdrawal [27] 115
- Scotland
  - Crieff Postal Arrangements [24] 1545
  - Island of Cumbrae Postal Arrangements [23] 1668
  - Perth Post Office [27] 802
  - Portnahaven Lighthouse [24] 1400
- South Kensington Museum Building [26] 687
- Sporting Telegrams for Newspapers [28] 464
- Stationary Clerks [24] 21, 1271
- Submarine Telegraph Company's Employés [24] 463
- Sunday Extra Postage Charge in London [24] 1533
- Supply
  - Coldbath Fields Money Order Office [24] 949, 951, 953, 954
  - Post Office [29] 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 260, 261, 262, 263
  - Telegraphs [29] 264
- Telegraphs
  - Burgh Heath, Communication with [22] 1578
  - Central Office [22] 1005; [23] 626; [25] 1216; [26] 1561; [27] 1015
  - Coast Communication between Start Bay and Dartmouth [27] 1023
  - Departmental Committee's Report [22] 1249; [26] 124
  - Examination [24] 595; [26] 946
  - International Code [22] 303
  - Liverpool Clerks' Grievances [23] 853, 1679; [27] 1392
  - Manchester Staff [26] 1314
  - Mistakes in Transmission [27] 16
  - Provincial Staff Grievances [26] 1570
  - Revenue [23] 825

[*cont.*

MORLEY, Right Hon. Arnold—*cont.*

- Telephone Companies [23] 1660; [25] 1632; [27] 1135, 1396; [28] 1249, 1270
- Tien-Tsin Postal Arrangements [25] 8
- Tracers [23] 1445; [26] 132
- Trade Journals' Postage Rate [24] 769
- Universal Postal Delivery [23] 611
- Wales
  - Eglwyseg Rural Postman [28] 1253
  - Postal Facilities [28] 23
  - Post Office Appointments [27] 1251
- West Indian and South American Mails [22] 561, 1461

MORLEY, RIGHT HON. JOHN (Chief Secretary for Ireland), *Newcastle-upon-Tyne*

- Achill Island
  - Prosecutions [26] 130
  - Seed Collection [25] 1649
- Administrative Reports [26] 1572
- Agrarian Crime [25] 1085, 1472
- Agricultural Statistics Enumerators [25] 425
- Agriculture, Proposed Board of [22] 346, 686
- Annaly's, Lord, Estate Dispute [23] 1227, 1582
- Arran Islands—Destitution and Evictions [22] 319, 1459, 1511; [23] 466, 619, 834, 835, 972, 1437; [24] 791
- Ballymore Eustace Church, Breaking into [28] 243
- Bankruptcy in Belfast [25] 9
- Bankruptcy—Local Courts in the North-West of Ireland [24] 1159
- Barbed Wire Fences [23] 1421
- Barony Constables in Monaghan County, Defalcations of [23] 1672
- Barrow Drainage [29] 362
- Belfast Ship's Carpenter, Manslaughter by [23] 7
- Belfast Warehouse Company [25] 911
- Birr Barracks Scandal [27] 380, 1029; [28] 128
- Boycotting [22] 1109; [23] 1446, 1581; [24] 766
- Boyle Police Prosecutions [27] 1270
- Bray Harbour [27] 799
- Business of the House [22] 1460, 1520, 1564, 1614; [25] 772, 800, 871, 959; [27] 488, 673; [28] 470
  - Procedure on the Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Bill, Res. [27] 1418, 1419, 1420, 1421, 1426
- Cabra Churchyard Outrages [24] 1404
- Castle Martyr Licensing Case [24] 214
- Castletown Berehaven Harbour [29] 351
- Castletown Dispensary Residence [27] 162
- Cattle Outrages [25] 307, 1071, 1090; [26] 1571
- Cattle Seizures [22] 1594; [25] 917, 1074, 1086, 1091, 1463

[*cont.*

MORLEY, Right Hon. John—*cont.*
- Cattle Weighbridges [23] 1420; [24] 26, 456; [25] 1459
- Charitable Bequests Commissioners [28] 143
- Charitable Bequests—Investments [28] 462
- Cholera Precautions [27] 368
- Church Temporalities Commission, Payments under [23] 1584
- Church Temporalities Fund [22] 581
- Civil Service Retirement [22] 874
- Clanricarde Agent [27] 1389
- Clanricarde Estate [27] 1254; [28] 456
- Clare County, Crime in [22] 323
- Clew Bay Disaster [27] 27
- Clogher Sessions Clerkships [25] 1460
- Clonakilty Rate Book—Case of Cornelius Driscoll [23] 1226
- Clondelara Outrages [24] 215
- Confey Graveyard [24] 361
- Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Bill, Motion for Leave [28] 481, 483; 2R., 647, 648; Com., 878
- Congested Districts Board—Mr. Tottenham's Letter, &c. [28] 133, 134, 441; [29] 170
- Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill, 2R. [29] 404
- Co-operative Farming [24] 1529
- Cooscroom Pier [25] 1219
- Cork Murder [23] 1106, 1447; [24] 207, 813
- Cork Outdoor Preaching Disturbances [22] 1517, 1589; [23] 628
- Cork Street Preacher—Mr. Williams [23] 1414; [24] 211
- Cottier Tenements [27] 808
- County Court Administration [25] 171; [26] 791; [28] 246
- Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act (1887) Repeal Bill, 2R. [23] 760, 764, 778, 779, 783, 792, 794
- Crop Seeds [26] 440
- Crops, Condition of [28] 1246
- Crown and Sessional Crown Solicitors [25] 164
- Cruitt Harbour [27] 159
- Curtin, Mr. Fergus [28] 567
- De Freyne Estate [22] 873; [24] 782, 1530; [27] 559, 1567
- Derry—Irish Society's Estates—Case of Captain Coppin [26] 229
- Dillon's, Lord, Tenants [22] 879; [23] 461, 1088
- Dillon's, Mr. J., Speech at Ballybrood [24] 1167
- Dingle Pier [26] 431
- "Discount Corporation of Belfast" [25] 573
- Dispensaries (*see* under sub-heading Poor Law)
- Dog-Muzzling Regulations at Kanturk [23] 1576
- Donegal Churchyard Outrages [24] 1404
- Donegal Sessional Crown Solicitor [22] 679
- Donegal Voters' List [28] 451
- Downpatrick Water Supply [26] 1197; [27] 558

[*cont.*

MORLEY, Right Hon. John.—*cont.*
- Dromod Dispensary Medical Officer [24] 29, 1271
- Drumhariff Bridge [26] 1067
- Dublin Law Courts—Press Accommodation [23] 459
- Dunquin Landing Place [24] 211
- Dysart Meeting Prohibited [25] 1075
- Education
  - Agricultural Class Books [28] 458
  - Books [22] 1434, 1578; [24] 207; [27] 1018, 1131
  - Carn School [25] 685, 1072; [28] 567
  - Clonmeen National Schools [23] 195
  - Commissioners' Report [27] 1560
  - Compulsory School Attendance [23] 20; [24] 1270, 1543
  - Education Act [22] 334; [23] 20, 461, 620; [24] 21, 1004
  - Education Office [25] 681, 906
  - Endowments—Erasmus Smith's, &c. [27] 662, 1248; [28] 148; [29] 16
  - Ex-National School Teacher, P. M'Teigne [26] 126
  - Fees [25] 26
  - Intermediate Education Fund [25] 1215
  - Irish Language in Schools [27] 359; [28] 452; [29] 363, 364
  - Killavullen National School [23] 1585
  - Killuran School House [28] 19
  - Leighlinbridge Female National School [27] 1140, 1266, 1273; [28] 566
  - Monitors [22] 1434; [24] 205; [27] 1018
  - Mountjoy Demesne Bequest [27] 358
  - Rainey's School, Magherafelt [23] 464
  - Roscommon County School Accommodation [27] 557
  - Teachers [23] 624; [24] 205, 764; [26] 430; [27] 1024; [28] 759
- Electoral Divisions Valuations [25] 26
- Enniskillen Assizes—"No Bills" [27] 1130
- Enniskillen Royal School Estate [25] 1624; [27] 1128
- Evictions
  - Annaly's, Lord, Estate [23] 1227, 1582
  - Armagh, County [26] 432
  - Arran Islands (*see* that sub-heading)
  - Bodyke—Police Assistance [27] 1392
  - De Freyne Estate (*see* that sub-heading)
  - Dillon Estate [22] 879; [23] 461, 1088
  - Evicted Tenants—Legislation [22] 582, 703
  - Gladstone's, Mrs., Tenants [25] 676
  - Leitrim [23] 1588, 1685; [24] 221; [26] 1066
  - Limerick [28] 8
  - Madden Estate [23] 1580
  - Massereene Estate [27] 1582
  - Mungret [27] 1402
  - Number of Evicted Farms—Statistics, &c. [22] 697; [27] 18, 175, 813; [28] 444, 1233
  - Outdoor Relief [27] 19
  - Perjury in Eviction Proceedings [23] 969
  - Police [23] 1443; [25] 10, 583; [27] 1392; [28] 1233
  - Rathcline [23] 829
  - Sligo County [27] 1576
  - Tenancies—Claimants under The Evicted Tenants Bill and Aggregate Rental [27] 1403

[*cont.*

MORLEY, Right Hon. John—*cont.*

- Evictions—*cont.*
  - Tyrone [25] 583
  - Westmeath County [27] 547
  - Wexford, South [25] 1230
- Excise Summonses [29] 349
- Father Humphreys and The Evicted Tenants Bill [24] 802
- Fermoy "Planters" [24] 801
- Finance Bill [26] 920
- Financial Relations [22] 156, 570; [23] 836, 1659; [24] 362
- Firearms, Discharging in the Streets—Case of Rutledge [29] 366
- Firearms, Possession of—Case of J. Cashin [26] 694
- Fisheries
  - Baltimore Industry [29] 350
  - Bantry Bay—Trawling [29] 154
  - Dingle Curing Station [23] 835
  - Flesk Mills [24] 369; [25] 677; [26] 1071
  - Gales—Losses to Fishermen [23] 1674
  - Kerry, South, Improvements [24] 31
  - Limerick Fishery Laws [25] 1218
  - Limerick Water Bailiff [27] 658
  - Poaching in the Shannon [27] 373
  - Reports [25] 168
  - Slaney River [22] 1571; [23] 1101
  - South Coast [23] 615; [24] 1156
- Franchise Assimilation [27] 801
- Galway Recorder [29] 168
- Glen Industrial School [25] 1457
- Good Templars, Attack on [25] 1216
- Gort Hurling Club Band [28] 137
- Gun Licences [22] 568; [26] 1566; [27] 556; [28] 774
- Gweedore District Disturbances [23] 19, 20
- High Sheriffs [26] 429; [28] 247, 472
- Horse Breeding in Kerry [24] 460
- Horse Stabbing in Tipperary [25] 682
- Infant Insurance [27] 1124
- Irish Education Bill, Intro. [24] 1197, 1200
- Irish Language (*see* under sub headings Education *and* Magistracy)
- Joint-Rated Occupiers [28] 24
- Kerry—Glassabeg and Brandon Creeks—Sunken Rocks [23] 328
- Killiney Bay—Removal of Sand from Foreshore [26] 795
- Kilpeddler Petty Sessions Court [23] 1432, 1670
- Kilrush Gas Company [22] 679
- Kilrush Harbour [25] 412
- Kittson Estate, Listowel—Rents [25] 296
- "Knight of Kerry" and the Poor Rate [23] 1432; [24] 483
- Labourers' Acts
  - Amending [22] 693
  - Expenses under [23] 1662
  - Procedure under [24] 1163
- Labourers' Cottages
  - Augheygalt [25] 687
  - Ballina [28] 140
  - Ballymena [26] 783

MORLEY, Right Hon. John—*cont.*

- Labourers' Cottages—*cont.*
  - Birr [25] 1474
  - Carlow [23] 1220
  - Celbridge [23] 327; [25] 1466
  - Coleraine [28] 12
  - Cootehill [22] 872; [23] 326, 1084; [26] 120
  - Dingle [23] 617
  - Dundalk [23] 5
  - Dungannon [27] 1122
  - Dunshaughlin [23] 827, 828; [24] 224; [25] 1465; [27] 1024
  - Edenderry [24] 586, 771; [28] 981, 1226
  - Emly [28] 453
  - Killough Dispensary District [27] 663
  - Kilmacthomas [24] 230; [25] 1345
  - Leixlip [22] 1100
  - Nenagh [24] 785
  - Newcastle West [23] 24; [26] 694
  - Occupation of by Persons not Labourers [25] 309
  - Roscrea [23] 1578
  - Skibbereen [25] 680
  - Sligo [23] 322, 1219
  - Strabane [23] 202; [24] 209; [25] 297, 298; [28] 127
  - Stranorlar [23] 1664; [26] 447
  - Tipperary [24] 201
  - Trim [29] 23
  - Tullamore [24] 768
  - Youghal [22] 329
- Land Acts
  - Lord Justice Fitzgibbon [24] 1131
  - Publication of in "The Times" [28] 1257
  - Select Committee on [22] 139, 698, 870, 1114, 1454, 1455, 1595; [23] 108, 110, 305, 308, 397, 589, 990
  - Tenants' Improvements—Case of Mr. J. Robb [22] 1433
  - Town Parks [22] 878, 1432
- Land Commission—Cavan—Mr. Bomford, &c. [23] 185, 221, 862, 1417; [24] 780, 1153
- Land-Grabbing Denunciations [22] 1452; [24] 22, 23, 466, 760, 801, 1265; [25] 552, 554, 795, 904, 921, 1087; [26] 1189; [27] 385, 670; [28] 769
- Land Purchase
  - Godley Estate [25] 553; [26] 227, 1559; [27] 1004, 1559
  - Kerry County—Case of Mr. Allman [26] 434
  - Kilkenny County [22] 313
  - Waterford County—Case of T. Whelan [25] 1217, 1627
- Land Sub-Commissioner—Mr. Jeffcot [25] 289, 580
- Land Tenure (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [23] 130, 139, 151, 152, 153, 154, 162
- Landed Estates, Sale of [28] 445
- Lanesborough Estate—Case of T. Boland, &c. [23] 1418
- Law Library, Four Courts (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [22] 1115; Com. [23] 586, 587, 588
- Law Reports—House of Commons Library [23] 1435
- Letterbreen Petty Sessions Court [26] 680
- Lewis Estate, Galway—Extra Police, &c. [23] 1578, 1671

[*cont.*

[*cont.*

MORLEY, Right Hon. John—*cont.*
  Licensed Restaurant Facilities in Dublin [26] 433; [28] 139
  Life Sentences—Case of Kirwan [26] 677
  Lights Board [22] 573
    Contracts [27] 1404
    Lighting the River Shannon [26] 949
  Limerick Assizes [26] 1303
  Limerick Children at the Pasteur Institute [25] 294
  Limerick—Emergency Man, Alleged Shooting by [23] 329, 330, 331
  Lisburn—Registrar of Deaths [22] 680
  Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order Bills, Intro. [22] 853, 1379
  Local Government Officials, Religion of [28] 443
  Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Motion for Leave [23] 1635
  Longbourn, Colonel, and Clanricarde Agent [27] 1390
  Lord Lieutenancy of Limerick [27] 1264
  Lunatics and Lunatic Asylums
    Belfast and Antrim Board of Governors [22] 879
    Belfast Workhouse [22] 876, 1431; [23] 967, 1667; [24] 461, 803, 1417; [25] 298; [27] 1258
    Carlow Asylum [27] 365, 1401
    Chairmen's Casting Votes [24] 1532
    Derry Asylum [25] 1626
    Increase of Insanity [22] 1456; [24] 775, 1179; [26] 455
    Inspector's Report [27] 378, 1006
    Larne Workhouse [24] 780, 1546
    Letterkenny [22] 1113
    Londonderry Asylum [27] 1118, 1270
    Monaghan Tea Contract [22] 560
    Police [27] 557
    Portrane [23] 973
    Removing Lunatics [23] 1411
    Reports of Resident Medical Superintendents on Tea [24] 461
    Richmond Asylum [23] 196, 197, 342, 990; [24] 778
    Waterford [22] 565
  Lurgan Party Riots [29] 20
  Macfarlane, H. J., Case of [27] 374
  M'Nally, Mr., Alleged Attack on [26] 15
  Madden Estate Tenants—Fair Rents [25] 290
  Magistracy
    Antrim—Catholic Magistrates [23] 862
    Butterly, Mr. [24] 25
    Clare—Mr. Wakely [27] 1393
    Clogher—Captain Ferrall [26] 131
    Clogher — Mr. M'Laren — Public-House Licence Transfer [26] 127
    Deeney, Mr.—Licence Transfer [23] 832, 1104
    Dillon, Mr. [28] 1256
    Fermanagh County [22] 438; [24] 217; [28] 244
    Grant, Mr. J. [23] 1666
    Hegarty, Mr.—Licence Transfer [23] 848
    Irish Language [22] 566; [23] 28
    Kerry—Roman Catholic Magistrates [28] 1228
    Land Agents as Magistrates [27] 1562

[*cont.*

MORLEY, Right Hon. John—*cont.*
  Magistracy—*cont.*
    Lecarrow — Roman Catholic Magistrates [26] 239
    Leitrim—Roman Catholic Magistrates [24] 1545; [27] 169
    M'Elligott, Mr.—Licence Transfer [24] 25
    O'Connor, Mr. M. W. [22] 446; [23] 848
    O'Kelly, Mr. E.—Licence Transfer [24] 758, 998
    Portumna—Residences of Resident Magistrates [28] 458
    Publicans as Magistrates [22] 1586; [25] 549, 673; [26] 131
    Relatives on Magisterial Benches [29] 365
    Resident Magistrates—Limiting Time of Residence [24] 1160
    Tipperary County [24] 1418
    Wicklow Catholic Magistrates [28] 1241; [29] 18
  Malicious Burning [23] 17, 835; [27] 1126; [28] 243
  Malicious Injury Claims in Kerry [26] 691
  Manorhamilton Veterinary Inspector [23] 623
  Manuscripts, Grants for the Publication of [22] 583
  Mayo County—New Road [28] 1383
  Meath (South) Polling Lists [27] 1244; [28] 26, 242, 776, 1235, 1392
  Medical Witnesses at Assizes, Remuneration of [26] 129
  Model Farms [27] 1250
  Mohill Loan Fund Society [24] 464
  Migration Company [28] 775, 1243; [29] 368
  Moonlighting Outrages [23] 1444
  Naas and Newbridge Police Prosecutions [27] 1386
  Naas Local Government Inquiry [25] 163
  National Gallery [26] 793
  National League Meetings—Prohibition of at Kilfenora [24] 1526
  Navan Revision Court [22] 681
  Nenagh, Alleged Suppression of a Meeting near [27] 385
  Newcastle West Petty Sessions Clerk [25] 14, 585
  O'Callaghan, Colonel [27] 1258; [28] 129, 1381
  O'Callaghan's Mills — Meeting Prohibited [26] 1565
  O'Hare, Mr., Conviction of, for Drunkenness [25] 306
  O'Leary, Release of [25] 7
  Orange Disturbances at Lurgan—Attack on the Rev. W. M'Cartan [25] 1226; [26] 14, 15, 131, 1295
  Orange Disturbances in County Antrim [23] 197, 198, 849; [24] 779
  Orange Outrages—Case of the Rev. A. B. R. Young [27] 669
  Parliamentary Election Expenses, Res. [24] 1347, 1348, 1349, 1350, 1351
  Parliamentary Revision Sessions in County Cavan [26] 1304
  Pembroke Township [28] 10

[*cont.*

MORLEY, Right Hon. John—*cont.*
  Period of Qualification and Elections Bill [23] 843, 1454; Intro., 368, 373, 374, 378; 2R. [24] 397, 399, 402, 404, 407
    Compound Householders' Grievances [24] 1165
    Registration Expenses [24] 46
  Petty Sessions Clerks as Land Agents—Mr. Turner [26] 436
  Poachers Shot by Gamekeepers at Derry [28] 1230
  Police
    Assistance to a "Planter" [28] 757
    Athy Prosecutions [27] 1003
    Barrack Regulations—Peaceable Districts [28] 1382
    Belfast Nationalists [25] 916
    Catholics [29] 13, 349, 416
    Cavan County Inspector [29] 385
    Charges in County Cork [25] 1078
    Clashmore Barracks [28] 773
    Clothing Contracts [22] 340
    Evictions [23] 1443; [25] 10, 583; [27] 1392; [28] 1233
    Galway, Extra Police in [23] 1093, 1578, 1671
    Galway Public Meetings [25] 809
    General Election of 1892—Police Duty [24] 474
    Gun Licences [28] 25
    Gweedore—Attack on the Police [25] 802
    Luggacurren Estate—Extra Police in Queen's County [24] 30
    Lunacy [27] 557
    Lurgan—Complaint against a Policeman [23] 18
    Mullany, Ex-Constable [23] 1224
    Phœnix Park Constabulary Depôt—Catholics and Protestants [28] 448
    Presbyterians [29] 14
    Protection [26] 1571; [29] 384
    Protestants in Dublin Castle Constabulary Office [28] 26
    Railway Platforms [29] 361
    Right of Search [27] 802
    Royal Irish Constabulary Force Fund [28] 1383
    Strength of [23] 1444
    Tipperary [28] 1232
    Wexford [23] 207; [28] 1382
  Poor Law
    Administration Irregularities [27] 163; [28] 471
    Arrears in Poor Rate Collection [24] 368
    Ballinasloe Guardians' Election [25] 302
    Ballymahon Workhouse Doctor [25] 407
    Ballymena Union [26] 432
    Castleblaney Milk Contract [23] 1659
    Collection of Rates [24] 783
    Deportation of a Destitute Irishwoman from Hong Kong [25] 32
    Deportation of Irish Paupers from Scotland [25] 289; [26] 1188
    Dispensary Committees [23] 185, 322; [24] 374
    Dispensary District Vacancies [25] 1344
    Dispensary Medical Officers' Residences [26] 1567
    Dublin Collection of Rates [27] 1141
    Dublin Union Precepts [23] 191
    Edenderry Board of Guardians—Case of Macnamara [24] 1260

[*cont.*

MORLEY, Right Hon. John—*cont.*
  Poor Law—*cont.*
    Fermoy Union Accounts [22] 322
    Financial Condition of Unions Return [24] 1531
    Inmates of Workhouses [28] 8
    Kenmare Guardians' Election [22] 1509; [23] 1098
    Killarney Union—Financial Position, &c. [22] 1571; [23] 1092; [24] 372; [25] 1624; [26] 122
    Leitrim (South) Poor Rate Collection [27] 1125
    Letterkenny Guardians [23] 1412
    Listowel Union Finance [22] 1585; [23] 189; [25] 550, 1629; [26] 122
    Medical Relief [23] 1413
    Nationalist Boards of Guardians [24] 1261
    Newcastle West Board of Guardians [27] 24
    Outdoor Relief for Evicted Tenants [27] 19
    Roscommon Poor Rates [27] 667
    Stokestown Medical Officers [28] 1256
    Stradone Medical Officers [28] 138
    Tralee Union Finance [23] 188; [24] 759
    Tuam [23] 830; [25] 405
  Presbyterian Children, Attack on, at Armagh [28] 568
  Printing Contracts in Westmeath [25] 9; [28] 436
  Prisons
    Administration Inquiry [28] 260
    Dundalk [22] 313; [23] 4
    Ex-Prison Warder Barrett [23] 1225; [28] 260; [29] 176
    Lady Visitors [23] 971
    Londonderry [22] 681
    Mat-Making [27] 26
    Mountjoy [22] 875; [24] 782
    Richmond [27] 810
  Public Libraries Act [22] 334
  "Queen *v.* Linton" [24] 29
  Queen's Speech, Reply to [22] 295
    Administration of Ireland [22] 172, 179, 246, 284, 291
  Question in the House [29] 423
  Rabies—Destruction of Animals, &c. [27] 1578
  Rathdrum Water Supply [23] 328
  Rathlin Island
    County Cess [27] 1124
    Voters [27] 1125
  Registration Act—Dublin Union Precepts [23] 191
  Registration Bill [22] 864
  Registration Fees [25] 1468, 1638; [26] 228
  Registration of Titles [23] 1666; [24] 593, 772; [28] 7
  Reproductive Loans [25] 170, 412; [26] 1299
  Royal Hospital for Incurables, Dublin [25] 678; [26] 1073
  Scart Hely Voters' List [29] 150
  Schull and Skibbereen Light Railways [23] 29
  Simson Estate, County Roscommon [24] 206

[*cont.*

MORLEY, Right Hon. John—*cont.*
  Small Holdings (Ireland), Res. [23] 411, 412, 413, 414, 416, 424, 425
  Solicitors (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [23] 426
  Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [22] 1501, 1504
  Strabane Rate Collection and Voting Lists [28] 774, 1229, 1238
  Strangford Graveyard [25] 686
  Supply
    Administration of Ireland [25] 1569, 1570, 1589, 1590, 1592, 1593, 1594, 1596, 1606
    Boycotting Mr. Bradley [25] 1720
    Clare Assizes—Mr. Justice O'Brien's Remarks [22] 888
    Deportation of Paupers [29] 65
    Discussion of [29] 265, 266, 267, 268
    House of Lords Offices [29] 272
    Industrial Schools [29] 272
    Irish Veterinary College [25] 1719
    Land-Grabbing Denunciations, County Roscommon [29] 68
    Lord Lieutenant's Household [25] 1547, 1549
    National Education in Ireland [29] 243, 245, 252
    National Gallery, Dublin [29] 76
    O'Callaghan, Colonel [29] 69, 70, 71
    Police Huts [28] 1418
    Uganda Vote [26] 959
    Walsh, Hannah [29] 69
  Surveyors (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [24] 248, 249
  Swine Fever [22] 148 ; [27] 167
  Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill [23] 1228 ; Intro., 865, 869, 872, 875, 876, 877, 883, 884, 922, 939, 940 ; 2R. [27] 424, 429, 445, 462, 468, 476, 480, 592, 601, 617, 634, 676, 736, 737, 739, 773, 781, 783 ; Com., *cl.* 1, 1041, 1046, 1050, 1062, 1063, 1065, 1066, 1067, 1068, 1074, 1081, 1082, 1087, 1088, 1095, 1097, 1104, 1167, 1175, 1190, 1195, 1207, 1215, 1498, 1506, 1532, 1533, 1534, 1535 ; *cl.* 2, 1538, 1539, 1541 ; *cl.* 3, 1542, 1546, 1548, 1550 ; *cl.* 4, 1553, 1586, 1587, 1588, 1589, 1592, 1593, 1594 ; *cl.* 6, 1594, 1595, 1596, 1597 ; *cl.* 7, 1597 ; *cl.* 8, 1600 ; *New cls.*, 1603, 1604, 1605 ; [28] 248, 1255, 1391 ; Con., 149, 151, 153, 156, 158, 159, 160, 177, 178 ; 3R., 348, 354, 355, 356, 358, 359, 360, 361
    Amounts Payable in respect of the Interests Affected [24] 38
    Eviction of John Mackey [24] 1270
  Tithe Rent-Charge Arrears [23] 1671
  Tralee and Dingle Railway [22] 143
  Tyrone (North) Register [29] 383
  Valentia Island Boatslips [23] 1434
  Ventry Harbour Works [23] 1434
  Veterinary College [22] 346 ; [23] 326 ; [24] 807 ; [25] 26
  Veterinary Inspectors [22] 559
  Wallace Estate, Lisburne [25] 12
  Walsh, Hannah [28] 1236
  Warrants and Summonses, Issue of [23] 1584 ; [27] 1242
  Westport Disaster [25] 1225
  Wexford Grand Jury [27] 1564 ; [28] 132, 459
  Wexford, State of [23] 458 ; [27] 1013
  Wicklow County Officials' Residences [25] 905

MOROCCO
  British Representation at Rabat, Q. Mr. Gourley ; A. Sir E. Grey *July* 30 [27] 1245
  British Warships at Tangier, Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett ; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 14 [25] 1095
  Disturbances, Q. Mr. J. W. Lowther ; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 15 [25] 1230
  Sir W. Ridgeway's Mission, Q. Sir A. Rollit ; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 7 [25] 572

Mortgagees' Costs Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Neville ; Read 1° *July* 18 [27] 332
[Dropped]

MORTON, **Mr. A. C.**, *Peterborough*
  Army (Annual) Bill [22] 855 ; 1R., 851 ; 2R., 894 ; Com. [23] 561, 563, 565, 566, 575, 579
  Army Estimates
    Dr. Briggs [26] 817, 818
    Imperial Defence Loan [26] 1146, 1147
    Medical Staff Training [26] 825
    Works and Buildings, Scotch Castles, &c. [26] 1109, 1113, 1114
    Yeomanry [26] 877
  Army Medical Department Report [24] 1418
  Art Classes—Qualification of Teachers [24] 469
  Bhai Jasmair Singh [29] 360
  Bristol Tramways Bill, Con. [27] 998
  British East Africa Company [29] 375
  Budget [22] 1584
  Business of the House [22] 272 ; [23] 172, 290 ; Res. [28] 1267, 1268
  Cambridge Corporation Bill, Con. [24] 358
  Cardiff Corporation Bill, Con. [26] 661, 664, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675
  Coals for the Navy [25] 11
  Commoners' Rights [24] 1262
  Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill, 2R. [29] 393 ; Com., 423
  Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill ; Com. [22] 852 ; 3R., 888
  Enfield and Sparkbrook Factories [22] 1437
  Fatal Accidents Inquiry (Scotland) Bill [25] 418
  Finance Bill, Com. [26] 331
  Foreign and Colonial Meat (No. 2) Bill, 2R. [22] 1379
  Government Farms, Wages on [29] 419
  House of Commons Accommodation [24] 609 ; [25] 418
  House of Commons Kitchen and Refreshment Rooms
    Motion for Select Com. [22] 784, 785
    Returns [22] 852
  Indian Questions, Debates on [24] 1536
  Linn of Dee [27] 665, 1002
  London Streets and Buildings Bill, Instr. to Com. [26] 942, 943 ; Con. [27] 7
  Magistrates' Appointments, &c. [22] 702 [23] 207, 208

[*cont.*

MORTON, Mr. A. C.—*cont.*
- Manorial Rights and Poor Rates [24] 1006
- Market Produce Traffic on the Great Eastern Railway [29] 354
- Metropolis—Owners of Land—Return [24] 232
- Naval Launching Expenditure [24] 1003
- Navy Estimates—Manning [23] 100, 101, 102
- Newfoundland House of Assembly [24] 1280
- "Parliamentary Debates" Indexes [25] 16
- Patent Agents Bill, 2R. [22] 1376
- Patent Office Fees [23] 195, 832, 833, 1426
- Phœnix Park, Polo in [25] 424
- Political Offices Pension Act (1869) Repeal Bill, Intro. [24] 1364
- Political Pensions [24] 1536
- Post Office and the National Telephone Company [25] 1631
- Prison Accommodation in the Metropolis [23] 853
- Quarter Sessions Bill, Com. [23] 1782, 1783
- Questions in the House [29] 423
- Railway and Canal Traffic Bill [24] 1274
- Railway Rates and Charges Provisional Order (Easingwold Railway, &c.) Bill, 2R. [24] 1257
- Return Tickets Bill, Intro. [22] 786
- St. Paul's School [28] 1387
- Saxe-Coburg, Duke of (Annuity), Res. [23] 1033
- Scotland—Milk Adulteration [25] 39
- Sport Regulation Bill, Intro. [22] 786

- Supply
  - African Affairs [22] 364, 391, 403, 428
  - Appropriations in Aid [22] 377
  - Art and Science Buildings [22] 1068, 1069, 1070, 1071, 1078, 1080
  - Bechuanaland Railway [29] 99
  - County Courts [22] 372, 373
  - Deer Forest Commission, &c. [22] 835, 837, 842
  - Diplomatic and Consular Buildings [22] 1082, 1085
  - Extension of Admiralty Buildings [22] 985, 990, 993
  - Foreshores, Sale of [28] 1541
  - Harbour and Lighthouses [28] 1395
  - Highlands and Islands Public Works [22] 848
  - Home Office [22] 361
  - House of Commons Kitchen Committee [22] 880, 883; [28] 1431
  - House of Commons Offices [22] 352, 353, 354, 355, 358, 880, 884, 976, 981; [24] 1288, 1291, 1293, 1294, 1298
  - House of Lords Officers [28] 1429, 1430
  - Irish Light Railways [28] 1423
  - Law Charges [22] 371
  - Magistrates—Appointment Fees [28] 1459
  - Metropolitan Police Courts [22] 997
  - Newfoundland [24] 1324, 1325, 1326
  - Nottingham Execution [28] 1453, 1454, 1455
  - Public Buildings [24] 955, 961
  - Public Education—Circulars Asking for Subscriptions in Lieu of Fees [22] 378

[*cont.*

MORTON, Mr. A. C.—*cont.*
- Supply—*cont.*
  - Railway Companies [28] 1530, 1532, 1533, 1534
  - Rating of Government Property [28] 1402, 1404, 1405, 1408
  - Revenue Department Buildings [24] 928, 932, 951
  - Royal Academy [24] 973, 974, 978
  - Royal Palaces [22] 963, 969, 970
  - Royal Parks and Pleasure Grounds [22] 971, 974
  - Salmon Fishing Licences [28] 1588
  - Secret Service [28] 1588
  - Voluntary Schools, &c. [22] 825, 826, 827
  - Vote on Account [22] 803, 805, 806, 831
- Telephone Companies and the Government [28] 1248
- Tithes in Essex [24] 1524
- Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill, Con. [27] 1373, 1380
- Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill, Con. [27] 1381
- Ways and Means, Com. [29] 125, 130, 131
  - Financial Statement [23] 530, 532
- Workhouse Infirmaries—Local Government Board Inspector [29] 356
- Workwomen's Trains for the Metropolis [25] 289
- Wynn, Sir W. W.—Cruelty to a Horse [23] 1673; [25] 38

MORTON, Mr. E. J. C., *Devonport*
- Dockyards
  - Eight Hours Day [24] 376
  - Employés and Civic Offices [25] 1220; [26] 1569
  - Labour and Wages, Res. [22] 621, 622
- House of Lords Veto (Abolition) Bill, Intro. [23] 747
- Stonehouse Naval Ordnance Employés [27] 1014
- Supply — Dockyard Employés and Civic Offices [27] 1299, 1301
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Com. [27] 1071; 3R. [28] 334, 336, 337, 340, 342, 343
- Umtali—Arrest of Mr. Taylor [22] 701
- Umtassa's Country—Magistrates [22] 700
- Ways and Means, Com. [29] 139, 140

MOULTON, Mr. J. F., *Hackney, S.*
- Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, 2R. [27] 885, 888; Com. [28] 88, 89
- Finance Bill, Com. [24] 1567, 1608, 1610; [25] 449, 467, 484, 660, 1673
- Thames Conservancy Bill, Instr. to Com. [24] 1382; Con. [26] 1291

MOUNT, Mr. W. G., *Berks, Newbury*
- Vehicular Lighting Regulations [23] 1100

Mount Wise Bathing Place, Devonport
- Q. Mr. Kearley; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 25 [24] 1271

Moveable Dwellings Bill
c. Intro., Mr. M. Fowler; Read 1° *June* 26 [26] 319
[Dropped]

Moveable Dwellings Bill
Q. Sir C. Dilke; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 23 [29] 387

Mowbray, Mr. R. G. C., *Lancashire, Prestwich*
Finance Bill [26] 645; Con. [27] 58
Parliamentary Voters in Scotland and Ireland [23] 1688
Supply
  Report of [29] 179
  University Colleges [29] 226, 227

Mowbray, Right Hon. Sir J. R., *Oxford University*
Cambridge Corporation Bill, 3R. [24] 751
Selection (Standing Committee), Trade, &c., Report [23] 29, 30
Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [23] 1599

Mulholland, Hon. H. L., *Londonderry, N.*
Carn National School [25] 1073

Mundella, Right Hon. A. J., *Sheffield, Brightside*
Merchant Shipping Bill, Re-com. [27] 1362; [28] 364
Railway and Canal Traffic Bill, Com. [28] 792, 794

(*As President of the Board of Trade*)
  Alien Paupers, Returns [22] 349
  Baker and Company, Failure of [22] 1436; [23] 335
  British-Marked Goods [24] 202
  Canadian Tariff—Prison-Made Goods [23] 975
  Canal Rates and Tolls [23] 18, 635, 636
  Carswell Point Foghorn [23] 970
  Conciliation (Trades Disputes) Bill, 2R. [23] 941, 947
  Copyright Works, Canadian Royalties on [23] 839
  Cornwall Railway—Hours of Labour [24] 483
  Cruelty to a Seaman on the "Balkannah" [23] 21, 22
  Derelicts in the Atlantic [22] 1004, 1007
  Desertions from British Ships [23] 981
  Dover Pier Dues [22] 579
  Emigration Statistics—United States Law, &c. [23] 1073
  Engineer Examinations by the Board of Trade [24] 464

[*cont.*

Mundella, Right Hon. A. J.—*cont.*
(*As President of the Board of Trade*)—cont.
  Essex Fishing Grounds—Removing Cultch, &c. [22] 103, 866, 1253; [24] 809
  Filey Brigg Shipwreck [23] 1080
  Fishing Boat Lights [24] 203
  Foreign Goods (Mark of Origin) Bill, 2R. [24] 186, 189, 190, 191, 193, 195
  Fruit Identification Bill, 2R. [23] 166, 167
  German Export Trade [22] 1457
  German Prison Labour and the Importation of Goods into England [22] 341, 1103, 1458; [23] 974, 1079, 1587; [24] 375, 767
  Harbours of Refuge [22] 1445
  "Hondeklip," Wreck of the [22] 149
  Hoylake, Casualties to Vessels at [23] 1664
  Industrial Accidents and "The Labour Gazette" [23] 1074
  Ireland
    Board of Irish Lights [23] 619
    Board of Irish Lights and the Briggs Reef Buoy [22] 571; [23] 323, 324, 325
    Clogher Valley Tramway Company Engine-Drivers [23] 1100
    Cork, Bandon, and South Coast Railway Company—West Cork Mail Service [23] 331
    Drumshanbo Stationmaster [24] 217
    Gales—Losses to Fishermen—Life-Saving Appliances, &c. [23] 1587, 1673
    Level Crossing—Great Northern Railway [23] 969
    Lighthouses—Grant in Aid of the Mercantile Marine Fund [23] 840
    Mail Boats, Soldiers on [24] 236
    Mew Island Fog Signal [23] 210
    Mixed Trains [23] 206, 207; [24] 800
    Railways—Drogheda and Dublin Facilities [22] 863
    Shipping Casualty in Lough Ryan [23] 833
    Spencer Dock [23] 201
  Labour Minister Bill, 2R. [24] 184
  Lightships—The Smalls [22] 314
  Manning — Mercantile Marine [23] 465; [24] 786
  Marking of Foreign Meat [23] 25, 26, 27
  Mercantile Marine Expenditure [22] 139
  Merchandise Marks Act, Offences against [23] 321, 618
  Merchant Shipping Bill, Intro. [22] 1216; 2R. [23] 106, 107
  Merchant Shipping (Life-Saving Appliances) Act—Board of Trade Rules [22] 1252
  Missing Vessels [23] 860
  Money-Lending Banks [24] 811
  North Sea Fisheries Convention [24] 374
  Official Publications [23] 454
  Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, 2R. [24] 732
  Passenger Steamers, Overcrowding [24] 771

[*cont.*

Mundella, Right Hon. A. J.—*cont.*

(*As President of the Board of Trade*)—cont.

Patent Agents Bill, 2R. [22] 1374

Patent Office Fees [23] 196, 832, 833

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill, Intro. [22] 1688

"Port Yarrock," Loss of the [22] 1104

Railway and Canal Traffic Bill, Intro. [23] 224, 225

Railways
- Carriers' Act—Contracting out of Liability [23] 339
- Fares—London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway [22] 1250; [23] 851
- Fatal Accident to Mr. Theobald, M.P. [22] 148
- Injuries to Servants [22] 691, 1249
- Irchester Fatality [22] 902
- North Eastern Tolls [23] 21
- Overcharges—Chatham and Dover Railway [22] 860
- Platelayers, Accidents to [23] 630
- Rates and Charges—Legislation [22] 138, 1445
- Workmen's Cheap Tickets [24] 486, 487
- Workmen's Trains—Overcrowding [24] 794

Scotland
- Dunphail Railway Accident [24] 40
- Highland Railway—Insanitary Stations [24] 465
- Highland Steamboats, Sanitary Condition of [24] 466
- Light on Flannan Island [24] 484
- Railways—Hours of Labour [23] 1686

Sea Fisheries Committee—Report [22] 870, 905

Straw Bottle-Envelopes, Importation of [23] 24

Thames and Severn Canal [24] 804

Trade and Agriculture, Depression of—Amendt. to Address in Answer to Queen's Speech [22] 98, 104, 108, 112

Trade Unions Reports [22] 564

Weighing Machines, Stamping [22] 1439

Mundella, Right Hon. A. J.—Resignation of as President of the Board of Trade

Personal Explanation May 24 [24] 1191

Municipal Franchise (Ireland) Amendment Bill

c. Intro., Mr. T. B. Curran; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 450

[Dropped]

Municipal Franchise (Ireland) Amendment (No. 2) Bill

c. Intro., Dr. Kenny; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 452

[Dropped]

Muntz, Mr. P. A., *Warwickshire, Tamworth*

Business of the House, Res. [22] 1675

Foreign Goods (Mark of Origin) Bill, 2R. [24] 193

Post Office Contracts and Prison-Made Goods [25] 1089, 1222

Trade and Agriculture, Depression of—Amendt. to Address in Answer to Queen's Speech [22] 118

White Ensign [22] 1243

Murray, Colonel C. W., *Bath*

Aldershot, Double Canteens at [24] 584

Crimean and Indian Mutiny Veterans [27] 317

Soldiers' Workshops [27] 1393

Murray, Mr. A. G., *Buteshire*

Finance Bill, Com. [24] 1460, 1481; [25] 448, 490, 491, 754, 756, 852, 854, 855; [26] 152, 156, 200, 255, 265, 266, 267; Con., 1423, 1450; [27] 102, 104

Island of Cumbrae Postal Arrangements [23] 1668

Law Officers of the Crown [23] 1682

Local Government (Scotland) Bill [27] 1144; Motion for Leave [23] 1635; 2R. [24] 1069; Con. [28] 528, 537, 540, 572, 577, 578, 580, 584, 586, 606, 632, 633, 634

Period of Qualification and Elections Bill, 2R. [24] 286

Scotch Law Officers' Salaries [27] 382

Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [22] 1194, 1203; [23] 1603

Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 1309, 1312, 1314

Music and Dancing Licences (Middlesex) Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Howard; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 452

Read 2° *April* 4, 1376

Com.; R.P. *April* 11 [23] 170; *April* 18, 811

Con. in Com., Reported; Read 3°, and passed *May* 23 [24] 1121

l. Read 1ª *May* 28, 1367

Read 2ª *June* 1 [25] 160

Com.; Reported; Re-com. to Standing Com. *June* 4, 282

Reported from Standing Com. *June* 12, 895

Amendts. reported *June* 14, 1058

Read 3ª, and passed *June* 15, 1205

Returned from the Commons *June* 25 [26] 114

c. Lords Amendts. con., and agreed to *June* 25, 203

l. Royal Assent *July* 3

[57° & 58° Vic. c. 15]

Music Halls — Dangerous Performances
Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 29 [24] 1528

MUSKERRY, Lord
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [28] 708

Mussel Scalps (Scotland) Bill
c. Intro, Mr. Birkmyre; Read 1° *April* 17 [23] 748
2R. deferred *July* 3 [26] 875; *July* 10, 1390
Withdrawn *July* 19 [27] 488

N'Gamiland Concession (see under AFRICA)

NAOROJI, Mr. D., *Finsbury, Central*
Colonel Mitchell [27] 158, 553
India
Baladhun Murder Case [26] 1081
Government of, Res. [28] 1053, 1104, 1127
Officers' Pay [23] 970
Land Values (Taxation by Local Authorities) Bill, Intro. [22] 456
London County Council (General Powers) Bill, Con. [24] 1508, 1509, 1516
Madagascar—Alleged Outrages on British Indians [28] 447
Parliamentary Election Expenses, Res. [24] 1355
Parliamentary Expenditure on Commissions and Returns [29] 349
Queen's Speech—Finance of India [22] 220

NAPIER, Hon. M. F., *Roxburgh*
Farm Servants' Holiday (Scotland) Bill, Intro. [22] 461
Scotland—Service Franchise [23] 841

NATAL
Franchise Laws, Qs. Sir W. Wedderburn, Dr. Clark; As. Mr. Buxton *Aug* 23 [29] 371

National Debt
Annuitants—Nonconformist Ministers, Q. Mr. Dodd; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 7 [24] 481
Annuities, Account pres. *Mar* 21 [22] 854
Irish Church Temporalities Fund, Q. Mr. Knox; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 7 [24] 484; Qs. Mr. Knox; As. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 10, 795; *May* 24, 1187; *May* 28, 1425
Savings Banks, Copy pres. *Mar* 29 [22] 999
Vote for, *Aug* 17 [28] 1482

National Defence (see under titles *Army* and *Navy*)

National Dock Labourers' Union and the Birkenhead Guardians
Q. Mr. M. Austin; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 23 [23] 1102

National Flags
Victoria Tower, Q. Mr. Arnold-Forster; A. Mr. Gardner *Mar* 20 [22] 702

National Gallery
Qs. Dr. Kenny, Mr. H. L. W. Lawson; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 3 [26] 792
Landseer's Picture—"A Dialogue at Waterloo," Q. Mr. Thornton; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 20 [29] 22
Purchase of Pictures. Return, Q. Dr. Kenny; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 27 [27] 1140
Return, Motion for, deferred *Aug* 3 [28] 33

National Gallery, Dublin (see under IRELAND)

National Portrait Gallery
References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *May* 21 [24] 960, 964, 965

Nautical Assessors (Scotland) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. J. B. Balfour; Read 1° *July* 12 [26] 1548
Read 2° *July* 16 [27] 116
Con. in Com.; Read 3°, and passed *July* 24, 895
l. Read 1ª *July* 26, 998
Read 2ª *July* 27, 1114
Com. *July* 30, 1236
Reported, &c. *July* 31, 1367
Amendts. reported *Aug* 3 [28] 5
Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 6, 118
c. Lords Amendts. con., and agreed to *Aug* 8, 427
l. Royal Assent *Aug* 17
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 40]

Navigation and Shipping
Copy pres. May 28 [24] 1504

NAVY
First Lord—Earl SPENCER
Secretary—Sir U. KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH
Civil Lord—Mr. E. ROBERTSON
Accountant General's Department, Q. Mr. Thornton; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *July* 5 [26] 952; Q. Mr. Thornton; A. Mr. E. Robertson *Aug* 7 [28] 265
Admiralty Buildings, Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *April* 12 [23] 194

[*cont.*

NAVY—cont.

Admiralty Town Establishment, Q. Mr. Molloy; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Aug* 23 [29] 365

Africa—Ships Stationed on the East Coast, Q. Mr. J. Pease; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *April* 24 [23] 1214

Allotments, Paying, Q. Mr. Kearley; A. Mr. E. Robertson *April* 24 [23] 1216

Appropriation of Excess Navy Votes (see under *Navy Estimates*)

Armour Plates—References to, in Debate on the *Navy Estimates, April* 12 [23] 289

Arnold-Forster's, Mr, Letter to "The Times" (see under *Navy Estimates*)

Atlantic Steamship Routes, Q. Mr. Ross; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 4 [25] 309

Australian Station Naval Service—Discontent, Q. Mr. Goutley; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *July* 30 [27] 1268

"Benbow," H.M.S.—Sale of, &c., Qs. Mr. Macdona; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Aug* 17 [28] 1381; *Aug* 24 [29] 422

Bilge Keels for Ships, Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *July* 3 [26] 790

"Bothnia," H.M.S., Q. Mr. Forwood; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 19 [22] 574

Brazilian Civil War—Explosion at Rio—Loss of British Officers, Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Sir E. Grey *Mar* 22 [22] 867; Q. Mr. W. Whitelaw; A. Mr. E. Robertson *April* 12 [23] 221

Bullinaria, H., Case of, Q. Viscount Cranborne; A. Mr. E. Robertson *Aug* 21 [29] 158

Chains—Regulations as to the Sale of Old Chains, &c., Q. Mr. Martin; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 7 [24] 468

Channel Fleet (see under sub-headings *Scotland* and *Ireland*)

Chaplains, Catholic, Q. Captain Donelan; A. Mr. E. Robertson *June* 15 [25] 1210

Clerical Department — Second Division Clerks, Q. Captain Norton; A. Mr. E. Robertson *May* 28 [24] 1399; Q. Mr. Molloy; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Aug* 23 [29] 365

Coaling the Channel Squadron, Q. Commander Bethell; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 15 [25] 1223

Coaling the Mediterranean Fleet, Q. Mr. Webster; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 26 [26] 219

Coals, Q. Mr. A. C. Morton; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 31 [25] 11

Coastguard Stations — Life-Saving Apparatus, Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Mar* 15 [22] 307

Coastguards in Cornwall, Q. Mr. Luttrell; A. Mr. E. Robertson *July* 13 [26] 1560

Condition of—Debate on, on Motion for Com. of *Supply, Mar* 20 [22] 703; Q. and Obs Lord Hood of Avalon, Viscount Sidmouth, Earl Spencer, Lord De Mauley *May* 7 [24] 425

Construction of Ships (see sub-heading *Shipbuilding*)

[*cont.*

NAVY—cont.

Contracts

Black Handkerchiefs, Q. Mr. Bromley-Davenport; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 5 [25] 419

Boats Made in Germany, Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. G. Bowles, Mr. Dane; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 1 [24] 41; Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 3 [24] 225

Bolts and Nuts, Qs. Mr. W. Lloyd; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *April* 20 [23] 971; *May* 28 [24] 1404

Boots, Qs. Mr. C. Shaw; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 25 [24] 1285; *July* 19 [27] 376

Cutlery, Qs. Colonel H. Vincent; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *April* 12 [23] 187.

Harland and Wolff's Shipyard, Overtime in, Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 16 [22] 440

Manufacturing Goods on the Premises of the Firm Tendering, &c., Q. Mr. C. Shaw; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *July* 19 [27] 376

New Ships, Return, Qs. Mr. Macdonald, Captain Donelan; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *July* 20 [27] 556

Overtime on Contract Work, Q. Mr. Woods; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 16 [22] 440

Paisley—Trade Union Wages, Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 8 [24] 587

Ships—Tenders, &c., Qs. Mr. C. M'Laren, Mr. C. Smith; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 1 [24] 19; Q. Sir F. S. Hunt; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 24, 1165

Steel Company of Newton, Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 29 [26] 565

Thames Shipbuilding Firms, Qs. Mr. Kearley, Mr. K. Hardie; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 26 [26] 221; Q. Mr. Benn; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 29, 569; Qs. Mr. Macdonald, Mr. K. Hardie, Mr. Talbot, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 29, 570; Q. Mr. Macdonald; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *July* 6, 1079

Torpedo Boats, Q. Mr. Woods; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 20 [22] 682; Q. Mr. Donkin; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 15 [25] 1224

Trade Union Wages, Q. Mr. Caldwell; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *April* 17 [23] 616; Q. Mr. Lough; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 28 [26] 426; Q. Mr. A. Grove; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *July* 13, 1564

Courts Martial

Copy pres. Aug 16 [28] 1356

Officers of the Royal Marines, Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *April* 26 [23] 1447

"Crescent," H.M.S., Qs. Mr. Hanbury, Mr. G. Bowles, Mr. Howell; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 16 [22] 442

Cruisers, Ineffective, Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 31 [25] 15

[*cont.*

NAVY—cont.
- *Defences*
  - *Colonies*, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 29 [26] 566; Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. Arnold-Forster; As. Mr. Buxton *July* 12, 1465
  - *Defence Act — Financial Statement* *April* 23 [23] 1193
  - *Defence Fund and the Budget*, Q. Lord G. Hamilton; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 23 [23] 1096
  - *Defensive Preparations*, Res. (Sir C. Dilke) *Mar* 16 [22] 462
- *Derelicts* (see that title)
- *Dockyards*
  - *Apprentices' Instruction*, Q. Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen; A. Mr. E. Robertson *April* 5 [22] 1450
  - *Chaplains*—References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, April* 12 [23] 272
  - *Chatham—Discharges*, Q. Colonel Loyd; A. Mr. E. Robertson *June* 19 [25] 1474
  - *Classification*, Q. Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen; A. Mr. E. Robertson *April* 3 [22] 1251
  - *Coopers' Wages at Deptford*, Q. Mr. Fisher; A. Mr. E. Robertson *July* 30 [27] 1266; Q. Mr. Darling; A. Mr. E. Robertson *Aug* 7 [28] 265; Q. Mr. R. Cooke; A. Mr. E. Robertson *Aug* 9, 475; Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Mr. E. Robertson *Aug* 14, 989
  - *Deptford—Boots and Shoes Examiner*, Q. Mr. Macdonald; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Aug* 23 [29] 367
  - *Eight Hours Day*, Q. Mr. E. J. C. Morton; A. Mr. E. Robertson *May* 4 [24] 376; Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Mr. E. Robertson *June* 7 [25] 573, Qs. Mr. Lough, Mr. Jackson; As. Mr. E. Robertson *June* 19, 1462
    References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, April* 10 [23] 98
  - *Employés and Civic Offices*, Qs. Mr. E. J. C. Morton, Mr. Baker; As. Mr. E. Robertson *June* 15 [25] 1220; Q. Mr. E. J. C. Morton; A. Mr. E. Robertson *July* 13 [26] 1569; References to, in Debate on *Supply, July* 30 [27] 1299, &c.
  - *Foreign Officers' Visits to*, Q. Mr. Boulnois; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *April* 26 [23] 1450
  - *Haulbowline* (see under sub heading *Ireland*)
  - *Keyham*—References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, April* 12 [23] 293, 302, 303
  - *Labour and Wages*, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. E. Robertson *July* 30 [27] 1264
    Res. (Mr. Kearley) *Mar* 19 [22] 608
  - *Pembroke*—References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, April* 12 [23] 296, 302
  - *Pensions*, Q. Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen; A. Mr. E. Robertson *April* 2 [22] 1111; Qs. Viscount Cranborne; As. Mr. E. Robertson *May* 3 [24] 220; *June* 8 [25] 679
  - *Police Transfers*, Q. Mr. Kearley; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 7 [24] 470
  - *Tugs, Masters of*, Q. Admiral Field; A. Mr. E. Robertson *Aug* 14 [28] 983

cont.

NAVY—cont.
- *Dockyards*—cont.
  - *Working Hours*, Qs. Mr. Kearley, Sir J. Gorst; As. Mr. E. Robertson *Mar* 15 [22] 321; Qs. Mr. D. A. Thomas, Sir G. Baden-Powell; As. Mr. E. Robertson *July* 5 [26] 955; Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; A. Mr. E. Robertson *Aug* 3 [28] 22
- *Early Morning Work on H.M. Ships at Portsmouth*, Q. Mr. Havelock Wilson; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *April* 20 [23] 982
- *Engineers' Examinations*, Qs. Mr. Schwann; As. Mr. E. Robertson *April* 5 [22] 1443; *July* 23 [27] 671
- *Engine-Room Complements*, Q. Mr. Penn; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 19 [22] 563
- *Expenditure* (see sub-heading *Shipbuilding*, and title *Navy Estimates*)
- *Explosives—Shipping of at Plymouth*, Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *July* 20 [27] 547
- *Foreign Goods*, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 15 [25] 1212
- *Foreign Navies*—References to, *May* 7 [24] 425, &c.
- *Foreign Service—Reliefs*, Q. Mr. Gourley; A, Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 1 [25] 162
- *Foreign Stations Garrisoned with Marines*, Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 24 [24] 1162
- "*Galatea*," *H.M.S., Explosion*, Q. Mr. Gourley; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 12 [25] 903
- *German Language on Board H.M.S.* "*Britannia*," Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 14 [25] 1083
- *Gibraltar New Dock*, Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Mr. E. Robertson *April* 12 [23] 218; References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, April* 12 [23] 293, 300
- *Greenwich Hospital and Travers' Foundation*, Copy pres. *July* 17 [27] 276
- *Greenwich Pensions* — "*Tamar*" *Seamen Fatality*, Q. Mr. Kearley; A Mr. E. Robertson *June* 15 [25] 1207
- *Gun Practice off the Nore*, Q. Major Rasch; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 7 [25] 574
- *Gunners' Pay*, Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *July* 30 [27] 1246
- *Health*, Copy pres. *Aug* 16 [28] 1356
- *Ireland*
  - *Channel Fleet*, Q. Mr. W. Johnston; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 4 [25] 306; Q. Mr. Ross; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 5, 421; Q. Colonel Nolan; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 7, 557; Qs. Mr. Ross; Mr. Mains; As. Mr. E. Robertson *Aug* 3 [28] 29; Qs. Mr. Ross, Captain Donelan; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Aug* 16, 1236
  - *Haulbowline Dockyard*, Q. Captain Donelan; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 15 [22] 316; Q. Mr. Field; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 30, 1006; Qs. Cap-

[cont.

NAVY—cont.

Ireland—cont.

Haulbowline Dockyard—cont.
tain Donelan; As. Mr. E. Robertson *May* 3 [24] 212; *May* 29, 1525; Qs. Captain Donelan, Mr. M. Austin; As. Mr. E. Robertson *June* 7 [25] 558; *June* 12, 923

Recruiting, Qs. Mr. Cayzer, Captain Donelan, Mr. W. Johnston, Mr. Mains; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 26 [26] 231

Training Ships, Qs. Mr. Gilhooly, Dr. Fox; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 20 [22] 685; Qs. Captain Donelan; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 22 [24] 1001; Qs. Mr. Ross, Captain Donelan; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 25, 1264; Q. Captain Donelan; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 5 [25] 420; Q. Mr. Ross; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Aug* 16 [28] 1236; Q. Mr. Gilhooly; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Aug* 23 [29] 351

Ironclads at Sea, Q. Mr. Forwood; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 19 [22] 575

Jamaica Dockyard, Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 1 [24] 44

Launching, Expenses of, Q. Mr. A. C. Morton; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 22 [24] 1003

Lee-Metford Rifle, Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 16 [22] 443

Malta—Fever, and Sanitary Condition of Harbour, Q. and Obs. Viscount Sidmouth, Marquess of Ripon, Earl Spencer *July* 9 [26] 1175; Q. Sir S. King; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 10, 1306; Q. Captain Grice-Hutchinson; A. Mr. Buxton *July* 17 [27] 168; Q. Mr. S. Leighton; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *July* 17, 171

Manœuvres, Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 20 [22] 687; Q. Mr. Gourley; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 10 [26] 1297; Q. Mr. Gourley; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *July* 10, 1313

Marine Transport Service, Q. Mr. Webster; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 25 [24] 1263

Marksmen—Pay, &c., Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Aug* 9 [28] 467

Medway Dredgings, Q. Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen; A. Mr. E. Robertson *July* 12 [26] 1480

Naming Ships, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 7 [24] 455

Nickel Steel Plates, Q. Mr. P. Williams; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 15 [22] 318

Oil Fuel, Qs. Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 13 [22] 140; *Mar* 20, 688

Open Spaces at Deptford, Q. Mr. Darling; A. Mr. E. Robertson *July* 12 [26] 1475

Ordnance Stores at Malta and Gibraltar, Q. Mr. Forwood; A. Mr. E. Robertson *May* 29 [24] 1527

Pacific Cable—Survey, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *July* 10 [26] 1305

NAVY—cont.

Pensions

Dockyards (see under that sub-heading)

Saxon, Case of, Q. Mr. Darling; A. Mr. E. Robertson *April* 23 [23] 1074

Stoppages—Case of Griffiths, Q. Mr. Burnie; A. Mr. E. Robertson *May* 31 [25] 41

Vote for, and Debate on, *Aug* 22 [29] 316

"*Powerful*," *H.M.S.*, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *April* 9 [22] 1577

Public Press Regulations, Qs. Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *April* 12 [23] 213

Queen's Birthday Honours—"*Order of the Bath*," *&c.*, Q. Admiral Field; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 4 [25] 313; Qs. Admiral Field, Mr. Labouchere; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 7, 574; Q. Admiral Field; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 14, 1083

Rations

Allowances, Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Mr. E. Robertson *May* 3 [24] 228

Condemned, Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 20 [22] 689

Reserve

Debate on, on Motion for Com. of *Supply*, *Mar* 19 [22] 660

Training, Q. Mr. Cochrane; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *April* 3 [22] 1248

Retired Soldiers' and Sailors' Employment, Select Committee

Com. ordered (Sir G. Chesney) *June* 13 [25] 1052

Com. nominated *June* 28 [26] 515; Additions to Com. *June* 29, 656; Report *Aug* 3 [28] 116

"*Royal Sovereign*" *Class Ships*, Q. Mr. Gourley; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 3 [24] 202

Scotland

Channel Fleet at Stornoway, Qs. Commander Bethell; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 15 [25] 1223; *June* 25 [26] 135

Gunboats for the Protection of Fisheries, Q. Sir L. Lyell; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 31 [25] 30; Qs. Sir L. Lyell, Mr. Buchanan; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 15, 1220; Q. Sir L. Lyell; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *July* 5 [26] 948

Training Ships, Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 25 [24] 1264; *Aug* 17 [28] 1386

Sea-Going Warships, &c., Return pres. *Aug* 16 [28] 1356

Seamen and Stokers, Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *April* 30 [23] 1674; Q. Mr. Kearley; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 28 [26] 425

Seamen and Stokers' Re-Engagement, Return pres. *June* 25 [26] 204; Printing Return *June* 28, 516

Sheerness Gunnery Establishment, Money Voted for, Qs. Admiral Field, Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen, Sir A. Rollit, Mr. Heneage,

[cont.

NAVY—cont.

Sheerness Gunnery Establishment—cont. Mr. T. W. Russell, Sir J. Lubbock; As. Mr. E. Robertson *May* 24 [24] 1150; Q. Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 25, 1273

Shipbuilding, Expenditure, &c., Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 15 [22] 306; Q. Mr. Forwood; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 16, 559; Qs. Lord G. Hamilton, Mr. Forwood; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 26 [26] 235; Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 28, 456; Q. Mr. Arnold-Forster; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *July* 12, 1470

Ships Launched in 1893, Q. Sir C. Dilke; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 19 [22] 560

Stonehouse Marine Barracks — Alleged Assault by an Officer, Obs. Mr. Kearley, Mr. Hanbury, Mr. Deputy Speaker *Mar* 15 [22] 320

Stonehouse Ordnance Employés, Q. Mr. E. J. C. Morton; A. Mr. E. Robertson *July* 26 [27] 1014

Stores, Inspection of, Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 15 [22] 314

"*Tamar*" *Seamen Fatality*, Q. Mr. Kearley; A. Mr. E. Robertson *June* 15 [25] 1207

Tangier, Warships at, Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 14 [25] 1095

Torpedo Boat Destroyers
  Boilers for, Q. Lord G. Hamilton; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 14 [25] 1078
  Brennan, Q. Colonel Nolan; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 3 [26] 792
  Construction of, Q. Mr. Woods; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 20 [22] 682; Q Mr. Donkin; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 15 [25] 1224
  Flues, Q. Mr. Gourley; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *July* 30 [27] 1244
  "*Havock*" *Plans*, Qs. Mr. Hanbury, Mr. Tomlinson; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 16 [22] 434; Q. Mr. Webster; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 25 [24] 1263
  Speed of, Q. Mr. Macdonald; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Aug* 14 [28] 999

Tradesmen on Her Majesty's Ships, Q. Mr. Kearley; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Aug* 21 [29] 177

Training Boys for Sea, Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 26 [27] 1000

Training Ships
  Harwich Harbour, Q. Mr. Round; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *July* 10 [26] 1314
  See also under sub-headings *Scotland* and *Ireland*

Troopships
  "*Assistance*," *H.M.S.*—References to, in Debate on the *Estimates*, *July* 4 [26] 913, &c.
  Indian, Q. Mr. Forwood; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *Mar* 19 [22] 574; Q. Mr. Baker; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *April* 6, 1507; Q. Mr. Webster; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *May* 25 [24] 1263

NAVY—cont.

Uniforms, Ex-Officers', Q. Sir J. Leng; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *April* 17 [23] 611

"*Victoria*," *H.M.S., Disaster*—Debate on, on Motion for Com. of *Supply*, *Mar* 20 [22] 703

Victualling Yard Manufacturing Accounts, 1892-3—Annual Accounts pres. *Mar* 29 [22] 999

Warrant Officers, Q. Mr. Kearley; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 26 [26] 224

Warren Hastings Island, Reported Wreck off, Q. Mr. D. Crawford; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *April* 9 [22] 1568; Q. Mr. C. Bentinck; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *April* 19 [23] 852

Watertight Bulkheads on Battleships, Q. Admiral Field; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 24 [24] 1156

White Ensign, Q. Mr. Muntz; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *April* 3 [22] 1243

Navy and Army Expenditure, 1892-3

Com. *Aug* 17 [28] 1488; Con. in Com. *Aug* 18, 1598

Res. reported and agreed to *Aug* 20 [29] 148

Navy Estimates, 1894-5

Copy pres. Mar 12 [22] 125

Statement Explanatory of Estimates, Copy pres. *Mar* 12 [22] 126

83,400 Men and Boys, Com. *Mar* 20 [22] 749; Report *Mar* 21, 851

£3,918,500—Wages, &c., of Officers, Seamen, Boys, Coastguard, and Marines, Com. *Mar* 20 [22] 783; Report *Mar* 21, 851

£1,771,800—Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, &c.—Personnel, Com. *April* 10 [23] 31; *April* 12, 226; Report *April* 13 427

£2,294,000—Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, &c.—Materiel, Com. *April* 12 [23] 289; Report *April* 13, 396

£4,650,000—Works, Buildings, and Repairs at Home and Abroad, Com. *April* 12 [23] 292; Report *April* 13, 396

£1,402,100—Victualling and Clothing
£143,900—Medical Establishments and Services
£10,600—Martial Law, &c.
£79,100—Educational Services
£61,600—Scientific Services
£205,800—Royal Naval Reserve
£1,383,200—Naval Armaments
£173,800—Miscellaneous Effective Services
£231.200—Admiralty Office
£757,000—Half-Pay, Reserved, and Retired Pay
£990,400—Naval and Marine Pensions, Gratuities, &c.
£312,600—Civil Pensions and Gratuities
£60,300—Additional Naval Force for Australasian Waters, Com. *Aug* 20 [29] 121, 122, 123; Report *Aug* 22, 313

[*cont.*

Navy Estimates
Annual Votes—Unexpended Balances, Q. Mr. Forwood; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 12 [25] 1553
Appropriation of Excess Votes, Q. Mr. Gourley; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 12 [25] 926
Arnold - Forster's, Mr., Letter to "The Times," Personal Explanation (Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth) *Mar* 22 [22] 870; *Personal Explanation* (Mr. Arnold-Forster) *Mar* 29, 905
Expenditure, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *April* 16 [23] 465; Qs. Lord G. Hamilton, Mr. Forwood; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 26 [26] 235; Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 28, 456
Sheerness Gunnery Establishment, Money Voted for, Qs. Admiral Field, Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen, Sir A. Rollit, Mr. Heneage, Mr. T. W. Russell, Sir J. Lubbock; As. Mr. E. Robertson *May* 24 [24] 1150; Q. Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 25, 1273

NAYLOR-LEYLAND, Captain H. S., *Colchester*
Agricultural Depression in Essex [24] 1185; Res. [25] 814
Army and Navy Defensive Preparations, Res. [22] 504
Army Estimates—Colchester Barracks [26] 1043
Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, Con. [28] 112, 113
Chelsea Hospital [28] 1254
Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, Com. [28] 61, 187, 188
Old Age Pensions (No. 2) Bill, Intro. [22] 453
Old Age Provident Pensions Bill, 2R. [22] 1343
Patriotic Fund Commissioners and the Balaclava Fund [22] 569
Theft of Postal Orders [24] 1407

Netherlands Government—"Costa Rica Packet" (see *"Costa Rica Packet"*)

NEVILLE, Mr. R., *Liverpool, Exchange*
Liverpool Wards [24] 1633
Merchant Shipping Acts (Amendment) Bill, Res. [22] 676
Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill, Con. [27] 1377, 1379

Newcastle and Gateshead Water Bill
c. Read 2° *May* 29 [24] 1516

NEWDIGATE, Mr. F. A., *Warwickshire, Nuneaton*
Finance Bill, Com. [25] 1145; [26] 502, 595
Members of Parliament—System of Pairing [22] 1520
Parliamentary Elections [Expenses], Res. [24] 1355

New Forest
Cricket in, Q. Captain Sinclair; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 3 [28] 29
Destruction of Trees, Q. Mr. Heneage; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 14 [25] 1096

NEWFOUNDLAND
French Treaties, Q. Sir C. Dilke; A. Mr. Buxton *May* 1 [24] 36
Ministerial Crisis, Qs. Sir G. Baden-Powell, Sir C. Dilke; As. Mr. Buxton *April* 9 [22] 1581; Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. Buxton *April* 16 [23] 468; Q. Sir F. Evans; A. Mr. Buxton *April* 23, 1105; Q. Mr. A. C. Morton; A. Mr. Buxton *May* 25 [24] 1280
Reference to, in Debate on *Supply*, *May* 25 [24] 1324, &c.
Treaty Obligations, Qs. Mr. Gourley; As. Mr. Buxton *May* 3 [24] 243; *May* 7, 470

New Peers (see under *Parliament—Lords*)

NEW SOUTH WALES
Dibbs Ministry, Qs. Mr. H. Heaton, Mr. W. Redmond; As. Mr. Buxton *July* 31 [27] 1406
Houses of Legislature (*Victoria and New South Wales*), Return to be printed *May* 2 [24] 200

Newspaper Postage (see under *Post Office*)

Newton Abbot Workhouse Inquiry (see under *Local Government Board*)

New Writs (see under *Parliament*)

NEW ZEALAND
Auckland University—Case of Mr. Aldis, Qs. Sir R. Webster, Mr. Hogan; As. Mr. Buxton *June* 21 [25] 1634
Fiscal Policy, Qs. Mr. Dixon, Mr. Hogan; As. Mr. Buxton *July* 19 [27] 366
Legislature, Q. Earl of Onslow; A. Marquess of Ripon *July* 30 [27] 1236
Samoan Islands, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 24 [23] 1220; Qs. Sir T. Esmonde, Sir G. Baden-Powell; As. Mr. Buxton *April* 26, 1434; Qs. Sir T. Esmonde, Mr. Hogan; As. Sir E. Grey *April* 30, 1661

Nicaragua Canal
Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Sir E. Harland; As. Sir E. Grey *July* 16 [27] 15

Niger Company (see under AFRICA)

NILE (*see under* EGYPT)

NOBLE, Mr. W., *Hastings*
- Rotten Row, Accidents in [26] 231

NOLAN, Colonel J. P., *Galway, N.*
- Army Estimates
  - Factories [22] 550
  - Militia [26] 858, 859
  - Promotion from the Ranks [25] 1009, 1012
  - Rifles [22] 539, 548; [26] 1011
  - Waltham Abbey Powder Factory [26] 1031
- Artillery Majors [22] 333
- Brennan Torpedo [26] 792
- Business of the House [22] 449; [27] 282; [28] 1152; Res., 1260
- Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [28] 647
- Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act (1887) Repeal Bill, Intro. [22] 450; 2R. [23] 749
- Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway, and City of Dublin Junction Railway Bill, Instr. to Com. [25] 1205
- Finance Bill, Com. [26] 314, 370, 770
- Ireland
  - Channel Fleet [25] 557
  - Crimes Act—Repeal [23] 1225
  - Dispensary Medical Officers' Residences [26] 1567
  - Dublin General Post Office [29] 159
  - Ex-Constable Mullany [23] 1224
  - Galway and Clifden Railway [22] 148; [25] 1212
  - Galway Public Meetings and the Police [25] 809
  - Gun Licence—Case of Mr. Bracken [26] 1566
  - Licensed Restaurant Facilities in Dublin [26] 432
  - Meelick Lock [25] 1211
  - O'Callaghan's Mills—Meeting Prohibited [26] 1565
  - Prison Warder Barrett [23] 1224
  - Small Holdings, Res. [23] 398, 403, 411, 412, 424
  - Suck Drainage [25] 1212
  - Swine Fever [22] 148
  - Waterford and Limerick Railway [26] 1567
- Kirkdale Prison [26] 450
- Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Com. [24] 1095; Con., 1661, 1678
- Railway and Canal Traffic Bill, Com. [28] 641
- Supply
  - Endowed Schools [29] 74
  - House of Commons Kitchen Committee [24] 1297
  - Metropolitan Police—Boots, &c. [28] 1590, 1596
  - National Gallery, Dublin [29] 76
  - Pauper Lunatics [29] 77
  - Printing Contracts [28] 1569
  - Public Works, Ireland [28] 1416, 1417, 1418
  - Railways in Ireland [28] 1421

[*cont.*

NOLAN, Colonel J. P.—*cont.*
- Supply—*cont.*
  - Royal Academy [24] 978
  - Surveys [24] 991
  - Swine Fever, &c. [28] 1551, 1553, 1554
  - Uganda [22] 396, 404
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill [28] 1255
- Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 1175

Nonconformist Ministers and National Debt Annuitants
- Q. Mr. Dodd; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 7 [24] 481

Nonconformists, State Grants to
- Q. Mr. R. Cooke; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 9 [28] 477

NORFOLK, Duke of
- Law of Inheritance Amendment Bill, 2R. [23] 1391
- Uganda—Motion for Papers [25] 145

North Berwick Provisional Order Bill
- *c.* Intro., Mr. J. B. Balfour; Read 1° *Mar* 19 [22] 675
- Read 2° *Mar* 30, 1092
- Reported *April* 6, 1522
- Read 3°, and passed *April* 9, 1687
- *l.* Read 1ª *April* 10 [23] 4
- Read 2ª *April* 23, 1072
- Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *April* 24, 1212
- Read 3ª, and passed *April* 26, 1406
- Royal Assent *June* 1

[57° Vic. c. 1]

NORTHBROOK, Earl of
- Indian Cotton Duties [27] 523, 524
- Indian Tariff Bill—Motion for Address [26] 558

NORTHCOTE, Hon. Sir S., *Exeter*
- Army Estimates—Reserve Stores [22] 543
- Charity Commission (Parliamentary Control), Res. [22] 1026
- Metalliferous Mines Inspectors [28] 13
- Newton Abbot Workhouse Inquiry [24] 596; [25] 39, 1621; [27] 1117
- Reserve Army Stores [22] 585
- Supply—Sir Mortimer Durand [27] 1342

North Sea
- *Derelicts in,* Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 23 [29] 378

North Sea Fisheries Convention
- Qs. Mr. Heneage, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Mr. Mundella *May* 4 [24] 374

NORTON, Captain C. W., *Newington, W.*
Admiralty Second Division Clerks [24] 1399
Army Boots [26] 576, 1064, 1466
Army Medical Department—"Professional Assistant" [22] 1111
Army Medical Officers in the Home Districts [25] 556
Civil Service, Res. [22] 924, 927
Government Contracts, Duration of [25] 1641
International Reply Letter Cards [28] 1388
Metropolitan Police Boots [25] 1640; [26] 129, 576, 1074, 1467; [27] 28, 377
Parliamentary Elections (County of London Saturday Poll) Bill, Intro. [22] 1316
Railway Nuisance at Newington [26] 679
Supply—Dockyard Employés [27] 1303
Transvaal Gold Mining Industry [25] 1631
Uniforms Bill, 2R. [24] 705
Volunteer Decoration [25] 556

NORTON, Lord
Education Code Report [26] 1445
Licensing Bill, Pres. [27] 1110
Licensing Law Amendment Bill, 2R. [26] 926, 927
Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Act, 1890, Return [25] 3
Luccombe and Stoke-Pero, School Accommodation at [23] 437
Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, Report of Amendts. [26] 939
Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Com. [26] 111
Technical Education, Res. [23] 1653, 1657

Notice of Accidents Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Burt; Read 1° *April* 5 [22] 1504
Read 2° *May* 8 [24] 691
Reported from Standing Com. *June* 5 [25] 495
Con.; Read 3°, and passed *June* 11, 890
l. Read 1ª *June* 12, 897
Read 2ª *June* 21, 1612
Com.; Re-com. to Standing Com. *June* 25 [26] 112
Reported *July* 3, 779
Amendts. reported *July* 5, 938
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 6, 1062
c. Lords Amendts. con., and agreed to *July* 19 [27] 487
l. Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 28]

Notice of Accidents [Expenses]
Res., con. in Com. *May* 21 [24] 995
Reported *May* 22, 1082

Nottingham Execution (see under *Law, &c.*)

NUSSEY, Mr. T. W., *Pontefract*
Army (Annual) Bill, Com. [23] 571
Billetting [22] 304, 1098
Featherstone Riots—Compensation [22] 576
Grimsby Fisher Lads [28] 465
Pontefract Garrison—Military Regulations [22] 302

NYASSALAND (*see under* AFRICA)

Oakington Overseers
Q. Mr. P. Stanhope; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 30 [23] 1677; Q. Mr. H. Hoare; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 1 [24] 38

O'BRIEN, Mr. P. J., *Tipperary, N.*
Curragh Camp and Killaloe Slates [23] 1436
Gun Licences—Case of Mr. John Lee [22] 568
Irish Public Meetings, Alleged Suppression of [27] 385
Labourers' Cottages [24] 784; [28] 140
Nenagh Waterworks Loan [23] 1678

O'BRIEN, Mr. W., *Cork*
Achill Seed Rate Collection [25] 1648
Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [28] 646
Cork Outdoor Sunday Preaching [22] 1518
Dublin Law Courts Press Accommodation [23] 458
Labourers' Cottages, Dungannon Union [27] 1122
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [27] 622, 633, 635, 636, 748, 771, 772; 3R. [28] 284, 291, 344
Westport Disaster [25] 1225

Occupying Tenants' Enfranchisement Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Bartley; Read 1° *Mar* 20 [22] 787
[Dropped]

O'CONNOR, Mr. A., *Donegal, E.*
Army Estimates—Pigeon-House Fort [26] 1114
Bechuanaland—Concessions Commission [22] 317
Chelsea Board School [24] 808
East India Revenue Accounts, Com. [28] 1282
East London Water Bill, 2R. [22] 1416

Ireland
Barrow Drainage Scheme [29] 362
Beer Barrels [29] 380
Breenagh Post Office [24] 465
Excise Summonses [29] 349
Fermoy Union Accounts [22] 323
Labourers' Cottages [23] 201, 1663; [24] 209; [25] 297, 298, 686; [26] 447; [28] 123

[cont.

O'Connor, Mr. A.—*cont.*
  Ireland—*cont.*
    Leighlinbridge National School [28] 566
    Letterkenny Guardians [23] 1412
    Letterkenny Lunatic Asylum [22] 1113
    Medical Relief [23] 1412
    Police on Railway Platforms [29] 361
    Soldiers' Institutes in Dublin [22] 1113
    Whisky Permits [29] 379
  Pauper Apprentices [28] 466
  St. John's Industrial School, Walthamstow [29] 170
  Supply—Magistrates' Clerks [22] 367
  Ways and Means — Financial Statement, Com. [23] 1186, 1187, 1189, 1198

O'Connor, Mr. J., *Wicklow, W.*
  Daly, John, Release of [24] 1283
  Falsification of Whisky Permits in Belfast [25] 1098, 1352 ; [26] 15
  Portrush Letter Delivery [29] 386
  Provincial Telegraph Staff Grievances [26] 1567
  Publicans as Magistrates [22] 1586
  Rathdrum Water Supply [23] 328
  Wicklow Catholic Magistrates [28] 1240 ; [29] 17

O'Connor, Mr. T. P., *Liverpool, Scotland*
  Labourers (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill, Intro. [22] 451

O'Driscoll, Mr. F., *Monaghan, S.*
  Dominica—Sir R. Hamilton's Report [27] 1575 ; [28] 32
  Flesk Salmon Fisheries [25] 676
  Gladstone's, Mrs. E., Tenants [25] 675
  Monaghan Militia Camp at Carnacassa [23] 1410
  Orange Outrage—Case of the Rev. A. B. R. Young [27] 699
  Quit-Rent Office, Dublin [26] 785
  Religion of Pauper Children in Scotland [26] 677
  Royal Hospital for Incurables, Dublin [25] 677

O'Keeffe, Mr. F. A., *Limerick*
  Lights Board—Lighting the River Shannon [26] 949
  Lord Lieutenancy of Limerick [27] 1264
  Remuneration of Medical Witnesses at Assizes [26] 129

Old Age Pensions Bill
c. Intro., Colonel Palmer ; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 450
  2R. ; Debate adjourned *April* 4, 1317
  [Dropped]

Old Age Pensions (No. 2) Bill
c. Intro., Captain Naylor-Leyland ; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 453
  [Dropped]

Onslow, Earl of
  Betterment—Town Improvements, Res. [23] 447 ; Report [27] 352
  Boards of Conciliation Bill [27] 33 ; 2R. [26] 375, 387 ; 3R. [27] 1221
  London County Council—Duchy of Lancaster and Betterment, Res. [26] 1549, 1554
  London County Council (Tower Bridge Southern Approach) Bill, 2R. [25] 1322
  Marking of Foreign and Colonial Produce, Res. [23] 450, 453
  Merchandise Marks Act (1887) Amendment Bill, 2R. [25] 769
  New Zealand Legislature [27] 1236
  Wild Birds' Protection Act (1880) Amendment Bill, 2R. [26] 209

Opium Commission (see under India)

Oranmore and Browne, Lord
  Public Works Loans Bill, Com. [25] 1056
  Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [28] 972

"*Order of the Bath*" (see under *Queen's Birthday Honours*)

Ordnance Surveys (see under *Agriculture, Board of*)

Ottawa Conference (see under Canada)

Outdoor Provident Relief Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Bartley ; Read 1° *Mar* 20 [22] 787
  [Dropped]

Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Strachey ; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 450
  Read 2° *May* 9 [24] 716
  Con. in Com. ; Reported ; Read 3°, and passed *June* 6 [25] 544
l. Read 1ª *June* 7, 546
  Read 2ª *June* 26 [26] 210
  Com. ; Reported, and Re-com. to Standing Com. *June* 29, 558
  Reported *July* 3, 779
  Amendts. reported *July* 5, 939
  Read 3ª, and passed *July* 6, 1062
  Returned from the Commons, with Amendts. agreed to *July* 13, 1555
  Royal Assent *July* 20
  [57° & 58° Vic. c. 25]

Outlawries Bill
o. Read 1° *Mar* 12 [22] 36

Oxford—Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877
Copy pres. May 8 [24] 692

OWEN, Mr. T., *Cornwall, Launceston*
- Cornwall Police Court Procedure—"Pridham *v.* Jennings" [22] 567, 861
- Horwell's Endowed Schools Trustee, Election of [22] 304
- Magistrates' Clerks and Licensing Business [25] 1627
- Truro and Newquay Junction Railway Bill, Con. [24] 1138

Pacific Cable
- Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. Buxton *May* 24 [24] 1170; Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *July* 10 [26] 1305; Q. Mr. Hogan; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 19 [27] 363
- *Ottawa Conference Reference* — Obs. Mr. Buxton *June* 8 [25] 689

PAGET, Sir R. H., *Somerset, Wells*
- Budget Proposals [23] 857
- Education Code—Teaching Staffs [23] 837
- Returning Officers at Local Government Elections—Local Government Board Rules [26] 230
- Truro and Newquay Junction Railway Bill, Con. [24] 1135, 1143

Pairing (see under *Parliament—Members*)

Palace of Westminster
- *Dyce's Frescoes*, Q. Sir J. Goldsmid; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *July* 13 [26] 1574
- *Gas Consumption in Parliament Houses*, Qs. Mr. J. Rowlands; As. Mr. H. Gladstone *April* 9 [22] 1592; *April* 19 [23] 828
- *National Flag on the Victoria Tower*, Q. Mr. Arnold-Forster; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *Mar* 20 [22] 702
- *Statue of Oliver Cromwell*, Qs. Mr. Everett, Mr. Darling; As. Mr. H. Gladstone *July* 12 [26] 1483; Q. Mr. Everett; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *Aug* 20 [29] 21
- [For distinct Questions relating to House of Lords and House of Commons *see* under PARLIAMENT]

PALMER, Colonel D., *Gravesend*
- Crown and Unwilled Property—Case of Mrs. Adams [25] 798
- Embarkation of Troops [25] 797
- Old Age Provident Pensions Bill, Intro. [22] 450; 2R., 1317, 1357, 1370

PALMER, Mr. G. W., *Reading*
- Foreign Goods (Mark of Origin) Bill, 2R. [24] 196
- Smith, John, Case of [26] 1192

PALMER, Sir C. M., *Durham, Jarrow*
- Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, Com. [28] 841

Panama Canal
- Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 11 [25] 788

Paraguay—Trade Reports
Copy pres. May 10 [24] 911

Parish Councils (see title *District and Parish Councils*)

PARKER, Hon. F., *Oxfordshire, Henley*
- Common Jurors Bill, Intro. [24] 140

Parks
- *Bands*, Q. Mr. Aird; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *April* 3 [22] 1251
- *Green Park*, Q. Mr. H. Hoare; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *June* 12 [25] 903
- *Greenwich*, Copy pres. *July* 10 [26] 1392
- *Hyde Park*, Q. Sir C. Dilke; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *May* 22 [24] 1006; Qs. Mr. Labouchere, Mr. Dodd; As. Mr. H. Gardner *June* 15 [25] 1219; Qs. Mr. Cubitt, Mr. Noble; As. Mr. Asquith *June* 26 [26] 230; Q. Sir T. Esmonde; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 28, 445; Q. Mr. Spicer; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *July* 27 [27] 1127
- *Religious Intolerance*, Q. Mr. W. Johnston; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 30 [27] 1267
- *Richmond, Brakes in*, Q. Mr. F. Frye; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *July* 20 [27] 554
- *St. James's*, Qs. Mr. J. Burns, Mr. Pierpoint; As. Mr. H. Gladstone *July* 19 [27] 360
- *Sand Heaps for Children*, Qs. Mr. Crosfield, Mr. Tomlinson; As. Mr. H. Gladstone *July* 31 [27] 1405

Parliament

LORDS—
- MEETING OF PARLIAMENT *Mar* 12
- The SESSION of PARLIAMENT opened by Commission
- ROLL OF THE LORDS—Delivered *Mar* 12 [22] 4

Her Majesty's Most Gracious Speech delivered by the LORD CHANCELLOR

The Queen's Speech having been reported by the LORD CHANCELLOR, an Address to HER MAJESTY thereon, moved by Lord SWANSEA, the Motion being seconded by Lord HAWKESBURY *Mar* 12 [22] 4

[*cont.*

PARLIAMENT—Lords—cont.

ADDRESS IN ANSWER

Mar 12—Lord Swansea [22] 4; Lord Hawkesbury, 13; Marquess of Salisbury, 18; Earl of Rosebery, 25; Address agreed to *nemine dissentiente*, 33

HER MAJESTY'S ANSWER TO THE ADDRESS

Reported *Mar* 26 [22] 900

Business of the House

Obs. Marquess of Salisbury, Earl of Rosebery *Mar* 12 [22] 34; Earl of Rosebery *Mar* 13, 137; *Mar* 15, 297; Earl of Camperdown, Earl of Rosebery *Aug* 14 [28] 890

Judicial Business Aug 23 [29] 345

Meeting of Parliament—Alteration of Time April 27 [23] 1514; *May* 28 [24] 1368; *Aug* 6 [28] 118

Private and Provisional Order Confirmation Bills, Res. (Earl of Morley) *Mar* 19 [22] 557; Res. (Earl of Rosebery) *June* 25 [26] 105

Standing Orders Amended Aug 7 [28] 232

Standing Order 39 Con. and dispensed with *Mar* 26 [22] 900; *May* 29 [24] 1505; *June* 19 [25] 1448; *July* 30 [27] 1221; *Aug* 6 [28] 117; *Aug* 20 [29] 1

Whitsuntide Recess, Obs. Marquess of Salisbury, Earl of Rosebery *May* 4 [24] 333

Committees

Appeal Committee, Appointed *Mar* 12 [22] 34

Chairman—The Earl of Morley, appointed *nemine dissentiente*, to take the Chair in all Committees of this House *Mar* 12 [22] 33

Chairmen Appointed in the Absence of the Earl of Morley Aug 14 [28]; *Aug* 17; *Aug* 20 [29]

Privileges Committee, Appointed *Mar* 12 [22] 33

Selection, Nominated *April* 10 [23] 3

Selection for Standing Committee April 13 [23] 320; *April* 19, 822; Report *June* 11 [25] 788

Standing Committee, Ordered *April* 13 [23] 320; Nominated *April* 19, 823; Report *April* 23, 1072

Standing Orders Committee, Nominated *April* 10 [23] 3

Sub-Committee for Journals, Appointed *Mar* 12 [22] 33

Miscellaneous

Assassination of the President of the French Republic, Notice of Motion for Address (Earl of Rosebery) *June* 25 [26] 105; Motion *June* 26, 205; Queen's Reply *July* 2, 657

PARLIAMENT—Lords—cont.

Miscellaneous—cont.

House of Lords—References to, in Debate in reply to *Queen's Speech* [22] 196

House of Lords Offices, Com. appointed *April* 10 [23] 3; Addition to Com. *April* 16, 454; Report *June* 4 [25] 284; Report con. *June* 18, 1329; Copy of Report *July* 3 [26] 876; *July* 5, 941, 1044

House of Lords Offices Vote, Debate on Report *Aug* 17 [28] 1423, &c.; *Aug* 21 [29] 269, &c.

House of Lords Officials, Q. Mr. Hanbury; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 16 [23] 461; Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 24, 1223; References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *July* 30 [27] 1289, &c.

Peers and Parliamentary Elections—Lord Rosebery's Visit to Edinburgh, Qs. Mr. Renshaw, Mr. Hozier, Sir J. Gorst, Mr. Dalziel; As. Sir W. Harcourt *Mar* 15 [22] 347; Res. (Lord R. Churchill) *Mar* 19, 588

Rejection of Bills, Q. Mr. S. Keay; A. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 20 [27] 562; Qs. Mr. Cobb, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Bartley; As. Sir W. Harcourt *Aug* 20 [29] 22; References to, in Debate in *Com. of Ways and Means*, *Aug* 20 [29] 137, &c.

York, Duke and Duchess of—Birth of a Son, Motion for Address (Earl of Rosebery) *June* 28 [26] 373; Queen's Reply *July* 2, 657

New Peers

April 23—Rendel, Stuart, Esquire, created Baron Rendel of Hatchlands in the County of Surrey

Welby, Sir R. E., G.C.B., created Baron Welby of Allington in the County of Lincoln

May 28—Russell, Right Hon. Sir Charles, G.C.M.G., appointed a Lord of Appeal with the dignity of a Baron for life, by the style and title of Baron Russell of Killowen in the County of Down

June 21—John James Stewart, Lord Bishop of Worcester

Aug 14—Right Hon. Sir H. Davey, Knight, appointed a Lord of Appeal, with the dignity and title of Baron Davey of Fernhurst

Petitions—Von Krause's Petition

Obs. Earl of Lauderdale, Lord Herschell *April* 26 [23] 1403

Representative Peers for Ireland

Charlemont's, Lord, Claim to Vote, Established *April* 10 [23] 1; Certificate ordered *April* 16, 429

Clonbrock's, Lord, Claim to Vote, Established *April* 10 [23] 1; Certificate ordered, *April* 16, 429

Ferrard's, Viscount, Claim to Vote, Established, and Certificate *April* 16 [23] 429

[*cont.*

PARLIAMENT—Lords—cont.

Representative Peers for Scotland

Q. and Obs. Marquess of Lothian, Earl of Rosebery *June* 18 [25] 1335

Falkland, Lord, Minutes of Election *July* 26 [27] 953

Strathallan, Viscount, Certificate delivered *July* 19 [27] 333

Torphichen, Lord, Certificate ordered *July* 19 [27] 33 ; Minutes of Election *July* 26, 953

Sat First

Mar 12—Duke of Bedford, after the death of his brother

April 9—Lord Tweedmouth, after the death of his father

April 12—The Earl Brooke and Earl of Warwick, after the death of his father

July 19—Lord Forester

Aug 2—Lord Coleridge, after the death of his father

Stoppages in the Streets, Order to Prevent

Renewed *Mar* 12 [22] 34

Took the Oath

Mar 12—Earl of Buckinghamshire

June 12—Earl of Carnarvon

July 19—Lord Vaux of Harrowden

Prorogation of Parliament — Her Majesty's Gracious Speech delivered Aug 25

COMMONS—

Address in Answer to Her Majesty's Most Gracious Speech

Mar 12—The Queen's Speech having been reported by the DEPUTY SPEAKER : An humble Address thereon, moved by Mr. Warner [22] 37 ; and Motion seconded by Mr. C. Fenwick, 41 ; Debate, Mr. A. J. Balfour, 48, 70 ; Sir W. Harcourt, 61, 71, 73, 110 ; Mr. J. Chamberlain, 70 ; Mr. T. Harrington, 71, 73 ; Mr. T. W. Russell, 74 ; Mr. R. T. Reid, 74 ; Mr. S. Woods, 75 ; Colonel Howard Vincent (*Amendt.*), 75 ; Major Rasch, 83 ; Sir A. Rollit, 85 ; Mr. Dodd, 89 ; Mr. Field, 92 ; Sir F. FitzWygram, 94 ; Mr. Macdonald, 95 ; Mr. Round, 96 ; Mr. R. Cooke, 97 ; Mr. Mundella, 98, 104, 108 ; Mr. Tomlinson, 104, 111 ; Mr. J. Lowther, 107, 108 ; Colonel Kenyon-Slaney, 113 ; Mr. Gardner, 114 ; Mr. Chaplin, 115 ; Sir Mark Stewart, 118 ; Mr. Muntz, 118 ; Mr. Everett, 119 ; Mr. Jeffreys, 120 ; (*Division*), 121 ; Sir J. Fergusson, 121

[*cont.*

PARLIAMENT—Commons—cont.

Address in Answer to Her Majesty's Most Gracious Speech—cont.

Mar 13—Lord R. Churchill [22] 164 ; Mr. J. Morley, 172, 179 ; Mr. Harrington, 179 ; Mr. J. Redmond, 180 ; Mr. J. Chamberlain, 189 ; Mr. Labouchere (*Amendt.*), 194, 206, 207 ; Mr. W. Allen, 202 ; Sir W. Harcourt, 206, 207 ; (*Division*), 208 ; Sir G. Chesney (*Amendt.*), 208, 215 ; Mr. S. Smith, 213 ; Mr. H. H. Fowler, 214, 215 ; Mr. Naoroji, 220 ; (*Amendt. negatived*), 221 ; Dr. J. Kenny (*Amendt.*), 221 ; Mr. Field, 225 ; Mr. J. Redmond, 227 ; Mr. Asquith, 231 ; Mr. T. Harrington, 234 ; Mr. Conybeare, 237 ; Mr. T. M. Healy, 238 ; (*Division*), 241 ; Mr. Clancy (*Amendt.*), 241 ; Mr. Harrington, 244 ; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 245, 246, 253, 254 ; Mr. T. M. Healy, 245 ; Sir W. Harcourt, 246, 251 ; Mr. J. Morley, 246 ; Mr. J. Chamberlain, 251 ; Mr. Labouchere, 253

Mar 14—Ministerial Statement upon result of Mr. Labouchere's Amendt., Sir W. Harcourt [22] 257 ; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 261 ; Mr. Labouchere, 263 ; Mr. T. M. Healy, 265 ; Mr. J. Chamberlain, 265, 266 ; (*Debate* resumed on Mr. Clancy's *Amendt.*), Mr. T. W. Russell, 274, 278, 290 ; Mr. Logan, 277, 278 ; Mr. Harrington, 280, 290 ; Mr. J. Redmond, 290 ; Mr. J. Morley, 291 ; Dr. Kenny, 291 ; Mr. Field, 293 ; Sir W. Harcourt, 295 ; Colonel Saunderson, 295 ; Mr. J. Morley, 295 ; (*Division*) ; Address agreed to, 295

Mar 29—HER MAJESTY'S ANSWER TO THE ADDRESS—Reported [22] 901

Business of the House and Public Business

Mar 13—*Private Members' Nights,* Qs. Viscount Cranborne, Mr. Bartley ; As. Sir W. Harcourt [22] 154

Government Business, Q. Mr. A. J. Balfour ; A. Sir W. Harcourt, 156

Mar 14—*Financial Business,* Res. (Sir W. Harcourt) [22] 267

Mar 15—*Scottish Legislation,* Qs. Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Dalziel, Dr. Macgregor, Mr. Anstruther ; As. Sir G. Trevelyan, Sir W. Harcourt [22] 326

Vote on Account, Q. Mr. G. Bowles ; A. Sir W. Harcourt [22] 349

Mar 16—*Statement* (Sir W. Harcourt), Qs. Colonel Nolan, Mr. J. Chamberlain ; As. Sir W. Harcourt [22] 449

[*cont.*

PARLIAMENT—Commons—cont.
  Business of the House and Public Business—cont.
    Mar 19—*Statement* (Sir W. Harcourt), Obs. Mr. A. J. Balfour, Sir W. Harcourt, Mr. Tomlinson [22] 586, 587
    Mar 20—*Scottish Private Bill Legislation*, Q. Mr. Hozier; A. Sir G. Trevelyan [22] 691
    April 3—*Motion for Select Com.* (Sir A. Rollit) [22] 1256
    April 4—*Suspension of the Twelve o' Clock Rule, Notice of* [22] 1380
    April 5—Qs. Mr. A. J. Balfour, Mr. J. Chamberlain; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, Mr. J. Morley [22] 1460
    April 6—Qs. Mr. J. Chamberlain, Mr. A. J. Balfour, Mr. J. Rowlands, Sir C. Dilke, Mr. Bartley; As. Mr. J. Morley [22] 1520
      Obs., Mr. J. Morley [22] 1564
    April 9—*Course of Business*, Q. Mr. W. Kenny; A. Sir W. Harcourt, 1595; Qs. Mr. A. J. Balfour, Mr. Goschen, Sir G. Baden-Powell; As. Sir W. Harcourt [22] 1675
      Government Business, Motion (Sir W. Harcourt) [22] 1596
    April 11—Qs. Mr. J. Lowther, Mr. A. C. Morton; As. Mr. T. E. Ellis [23] 172
    April 12—*Order of Business*, Q. Mr. Goschen; A. Sir W. Harcourt [23] 223
    April 13—Obs. Mr. Bromley Davenport, Mr. Wingfield-Digby [23] 428
    April 18—Obs. Mr. A. J. Balfour, Mr. T. E. Ellis [23] 812
    April 19—Qs. Sir C. Dilke, Mr. A. J. Balfour; As. Sir W. Harcourt [23] 856
    April 26—*Order of Business*, Qs. Mr. A. J. Balfour, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Sexton; As. Sir W. Harcourt [23] 1454
    May 1—*Uganda Settlement Debate, &c.*, Qs. Sir G. Baden-Powell, Mr. J. Chamberlain; As. Sir W. Harcourt [24] 48
    May 3—*Course of Business*, Qs. Sir M. Stewart, Sir C. Cameron, Mr. W Johnston, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Labouchere; As. Sir W. Harcourt [24] 242
    May 28—Qs. Mr. J. E. Ellis, Lord R. Churchill, Mr. A. J. Balfour; As. Sir. W. Harcourt [24] 1423
    May 29—Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Sir W. Harcourt [24] 1646
    May 31—Res. (Sir W. Harcourt) [25] 43
    June 25—*Public Business*, Q. Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen; A. Sir W. Harcourt [26] 137

[*cont.*

PARLIAMENT—Commons—cont.
  Business of the House and Public Business—cont.
    June 26—Qs. Sir J. Pease, Sir J. Whitehead, Marquess of Carmarthen; As. Mr. Bryce [26] 320
    June 29—*Course of Public Business*, Qs Mr. Goschen, Mr. Wolff, Sir M. H. Beach, Sir J. Lubbock, Mr. Sexton; As. Sir W. Harcourt, Mr. Bryce [26] 577
    July 2—Qs. Mr. Hanbury, Mr. Goschen; As. Sir W. Harcourt [26] 695; Qs. Mr. A. J. Balfour, Mr. Jeffreys; As. Mr. J. Morley, 772
    July 3—*Statement*, Mr. J. Morley [26] 800
    July 5—Qs. Sir C. Dilke, Mr. A. J. Balfour, Sir G. Baden-Powell, Mr. G. Bowles, Mr. R. G. Webster, Sir D. Macfarlane, Mr. Bartley; As. Mr. J. Morley, Mr. A. Morley [26] 959
    July 10—*Course of Public Business*, Qs. Sir A. Rollit, Sir M. H. Beach; As. Sir W. Harcourt [26] 1312
    July 18—*Course of Public Business—Ministerial Statement* [27] 277
    July 19—*Public Business — Ministerial Statement* — Motion for Adjournment of the House (Sir M. H. Beach) [27] 385
    July 20—*Suspension of the Twelve o' Clock Rule*, Q. Mr. A. J. Balfour; A. Sir W. Harcourt [27] 563
    July 23—Q. Mr. A. J. Balfour; A. Mr. J. Morley [27] 673
    July 27—Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Sir W. Harcourt [27] 1145
    July 30—Obs. Sir W. Harcourt, Mr. Thornton, Mr. J. Lowther, Mr. Chaplin, Mr. T. W. Russell [27] 1271
    July 31—*Procedure on the Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Bill*, Res. [27] 1409
    Aug 1—Qs. and Obs. Mr. Akers-Douglas, Mr. T. E. Ellis, Mr. Bartley, Sir H. Maxwell, Mr. Tomlinson [27] 1555
    Aug 3—Qs. Mr. Hozier, Mr. Goschen, Sir D. Macfarlane, Mr. Tomlinson, Sir A. Rollit; As. Sir W. Harcourt [28] 32
    Aug 6—*Opposed Business after Midnight*, Q. Dr. Macgregor; A. Sir W. Harcourt [28] 146
    Aug 7—Qs. Mr. Weir, Sir D. Macfarlane, Dr. Macgregor; As. Sir W. Harcourt [28] 252; Qs. Sir H. Maxwell, Mr. Goschen, Sir D. Macfarlane; As. Sir W. Harcourt, 269
    Aug 9—*Course of Business*, Qs. Mr. Tomlinson, Mr. Bartley, Sir M. H. Beach, Mr. Hozier, Mr. Weir, Mr. S. Smith; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, Mr. J. Morley [28] 479

[*cont.*

PARLIAMENT—Commons—cont.

Business of the House and Public Business—cont.

Aug 10—Qs. Mr. J. W. Lowther, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir W. Harcourt [28] 570

Aug 13—Statement (Sir W. Harcourt), Obs. Sir M. H. Beach, Sir F. S. Powell, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Cohen [28] 778

Aug 16—Res. (Sir W. Harcourt) and Debate [28] 1258

Aug 20—Qs. Viscount Cranborne, Dr. Clark, Mr. R. Wallace, Mr. Tomlinson, Mr. Warner, Mr. Dalziel, Mr. S. Keay; As. Sir W. Harcourt [29] 27

Aug 21—*Report of Supply*, Qs. and Obs. Mr. Sexton, Mr. Mowbray, Sir W. Harcourt [29] 178

Closure of Debate (*Standing Order 25*), Paper laid upon the Table *April* 4 [22] 1380; Return ordered *July* 26 [27] 1108

Days Occupied by Government and by Private Members, Return ordered *July* 31 [27] 1495

Exemption from the Standing Order (see under sub-heading *Sittings and Adjournments of the House*)

Introduction of and Ballotting for Bills, Obs. Mr. Sexton, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir W. Harcourt, Mr. A. J. Balfour, Mr. Labouchere, Mr. Dalziel, Mr. Chance, Dr. Tanner *Mar* 12 [22] 129

Res. (Sir W. Harcourt), Mr. A. J. Balfour, Mr. Sexton, Mr. J. Stuart, Mr. Howell, Mr. Courtney, Mr. Knox, Mr. G. Bowles, Mr. Snape, Sir C. Cameron, Mr. W. Johnston *Mar* 13 [22] 156

Statement by Mr. Deputy Speaker as to Numbers, *Mar* 15 [22] 350; Q. Mr. Seton-Karr; A. Mr. Deputy Speaker *Mar* 16, 461

Standing Committee (*Scotland*) (see under sub-heading *Committees*)

Chiltern Hundreds

Vacation of Seats, Select Com. (see that sub-heading)

Committees

Ascension Day, Res. *May* 2 [24] 141

House of Commons and Kitchen Committees (see under sub-heading *Miscellaneous*)

Parliamentary Papers Distribution, Select Com. nominated *April* 2 [22] 1216

Privilege Committee, *Mar* 12 [22] 36

Public Accounts, Appointment *Mar* 13 [22] 254; Reports *Mar* 16 [22] 556; *Mar* 21, 854; *July* 18 [27] 332; *July* 31, 1493

Public Petitions, Select Com. nominated *Mar* 16 [22] 556; Reports *April* 4, 1380; *April* 11 [23]; *April* 25, 1382; *May* 2 [24] 200; *May* 9, 748; *June* 6 [25] 544; *June* 13, 1052; *June* 28 [26] 514; *July* 18 [27] 332; *Aug* 8 [28] 428

[*cont.*

PARLIAMENT—Commons—cont.

Committees—cont.

Select Committees, Return ordered *July* 26 [27] 1108

Selection (*Joint Committee*), Reports *June* 1 [25] 270; *June* 7, 667; *June* 12, 991

Selection, Nomination of *Mar* 15 [22] 432

Selection (*Standing Committee*)—*Chairmen's Panel*, Report *April* 16 [23] 522

Selection (*Standing Committee*) *Reports*, *Trade, &c., Law, &c.*; *April* 10 [23] 29, 30; *April* 13, 427; *April* 17, 746; *April* 27, 1637; *May* 7 [24] 454; *May* 10, 752; *May* 25, 1363; *June* 1 [25] 270, 271; *June* 5, 495

Standing Committee (*Scotland*), Res. (Sir G. Trevelyan) *April* 2 [22] 1116; Debate resumed and further adjourned *April* 5, 1487; Adjourned Debate resumed and further adjourned *April* 17 [23] 648; Debate resumed *April* 20, 991; *Amendts.* (Viscount Wolmer's), 1004; *Division*, 1020; (Sir H. Maxwell's), 1021; Agreed to; (Mr. Little's), 1025; *Division*, 1033; Debate adjourned; Debate resumed *April* 27, 1588; *Amendts.* (Mr. Renshaw's), 1590; (Mr. Wodehouse's), 1599; (Mr. J. A. Campbell's), 1600; (Mr. A. J. Balfour's), 1602; *Division*, 1606; *Amendt.* (Mr. Hozier), 1607; *Division*, 1613

Later Sittings, Res. *June* 26 [26] 319

Reports, *May* 7 [24] 454; *May* 25, 1362; *June* 1 [25] 270

Standing Committees

Chairmen's Panel, Report *May* 25 [24] 1362

Printing and Circulating Minutes of Proceedings *May* 23 [24] 1132

Standing Orders—Select Com. nominated *Mar* 15 [22] 432; Quorum of Com. *July* 10 [26] 1390

Members

Arnold-Forster, Mr.—Personal Explanation *Mar* 29 [22] 905

"*Breaking a Pair*," Obs. Mr. Storey, Mr. Mildmay, Mr. Anstruther, Mr. Dane *May* 24 [24] 1192

Cabinet Ministers' Salaries, Q. Mr. Heneage; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 24 [24] 1189

Kay-Shuttleworth, Sir U.—Personal Explanation *Mar* 22 [22] 870

Mundella, Mr.—Personal Explanation *May* 24 [24] 1191

Pairing, System of, Qs. and Obs. Mr. Sexton, Mr. Speaker, Lord W. Lennox, Mr. Newdigate *April* 6 [22] 1518

Payment of, Q. Mr. Woods; A. Sir W. Harcourt *Aug* 7 [28] 253

Re-directed Postal Matter, Qs. Mr. Wolff, Mr. Roby, Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Bartley; As. Mr. A. Morley *May* 31 [25] 23

Re-election on Appointment to Office, Q. Mr. Priestley; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 17 [23] 632

PARLIAMENT—Commons—cont.

Miscellaneous

- *Accommodation in the House*, Q. Mr. A. C. Morton; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 8 [24] 609; Q. Mr. A. C. Morton; A. Mr. Gardner *June* 5 [25] 418
  - References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Mar* 22 [22] 884
- *Accommodation in the House Select Committee*—Motion (Mr. T. E. Ellis) *April* 20 [23] 1066; Nomination of Com. *June* 11 [25] 891
  - *Discharges and Additions to*, *Aug* 6 [28] 228
  - *Report Aug* 6, 367
- *Acts of Parliament, Dilatory Publication of*, Q. Sir J. Leng; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 19 [27] 359
- *Adjournment Motions under Standing Order 17*, Return ordered *July* 26 [27] 1108
- *Assassination of the President of the French Republic*, Motion for Address (Sir W. Harcourt) *June* 25 [26] 136; *June* 26, 245; Queen's Reply *July* 2, 676
- *Closure of Debate* (*Standing Order 25*), Paper laid upon the Table *April* 4 [22] 1380
  - Return ordered *July* 26 [27] 1108
- *Committee Rooms, Water Closets off—Water Supply*, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *Aug* 10 [28] 559; Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 13, 766; *Aug* 14, 993; Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *Aug* 17, 1386
- *Division List—Correction*, *April* 17 [23] 824
- *Divisions of the House*, Return ordered *July* 31 [27] 1496
- *Electric Lighting*, Q. Sir J. Goldsmid; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *July* 13 [26] 1574; Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *Aug* 10 [28] 558
- *Irish Land Acts Committee Report—Publication of in "The Times,"* Qs. Mr. Sexton, Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Mr. Speaker, Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 16 [28] 1257; Obs. Mr. Macartney, Mr. Sexton *Aug* 20 [29] 28
- *Kitchen and Refreshment Rooms Committee*, Nominated *Mar* 20 [22] 784; Reports *May* 31 [25] 132; *Aug* 15 [28] 1151; References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Mar* 22 [22] 88, &c.; *May* 25 [24] 1288, &c.
- *Kitchen and Refreshment Rooms Expenses*, Motion for Return (Mr. A. C. Morton) *Mar* 21 [22] 852; *May* 8 [24] 691
- *Ladies' Gallery*, Qs. Mr. W. M'Laren, Lord R. Churchill, Sir D. Macfarlane, Mr. Tomlinson, Mr. W. Johnston, Mr. Bartley; As. Mr. H. Gladstone *April* 26 [23] 1448; Qs. Mr. Weir, Sir D. Macfarlane; As. Mr. H. Gladstone *May* 7 [24] 471; Qs. Mr. Bodkin, Mr. Weir; As. Mr. H. Gladstone *June* 1 [25] 175; Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *June* 15, 1224

[*cont.*

PARLIAMENT—Commons—cont.

Miscellaneous—cont.

- *Ladies in the Members' Gallery*, Qs. Mr. Byles, Mr. W. M'Laren; As. Mr. H. Gladstone *June* 15 [25] 1223
- *Library—Irish Law Reports*, Qs. Mr. M'Cartan, Mr. Dane; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 26 [23] 1435
- *Offices*, Amendt. on the *Vote on Account* (Mr. A. C. Morton) *May* 25 [24] 1288
  - References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Mar* 22 [22] 880
  - *Vote for*, Con. in Com. *Aug* 17 [28] 1431
- *Press Accommodation*, Q. Mr. Paul; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *Mar* 29 [22] 905
- *Private Bills*
  - *Conference with Chairman of Committees of the House of Lords Mar* 12 [22] 35
  - *Cost of*, Qs. Mr. Howell, Sir H. James, Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 10 [23] 23
  - *Reports of*, Q. Mr. C. Williams; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 26 [23] 1442
  - *Return ordered July* 31 [27] 1495
- *Public Bills*, Return ordered *July* 31 [27] 1496
- *Public Petitions*, Return ordered *July* 31 [27] 1496
- *Royal Commissions and Returns—Parliamentary Expenditure*, Q. Mr. Naoroji; A. Sir J. Hibbert *Aug* 23 [29] 349
- *Sanitation*, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *Aug* 10 [28] 558
- *Ventilation*, Q. Sir D. Macfarlane; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *April* 26 [23] 1426; Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Mr. H. Gladstone *July* 30 [27] 1268; *Aug* 7 [28] 256; Q. Mr. P. Smith; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *Aug* 7, 266; Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Mr. H. Gladstone *Aug* 10, 557; Q. Mr. Weir; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 13, 768; Q. Mr. Crombie; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *Aug* 17, 1380
- *Waiters' Wages*, Qs. Mr. K. Hardie, Mr. Cremer; As. Mr. Herbert *May* 3 [24] 233
- *York, Duke and Duchess of—Birth of a Son*, Notice of Motion for Address (Sir W. Harcourt) *June* 25 [26] 136; Motion *June* 28, 460; Queen's Reply *July* 2, 676

New Members Sworn

- *Mar* 29—Ferguson, R. C. M., Esquire, for the Leith District of Burghs
- *April* 2—Owen, Arthur C. H., for the County of Montgomery
  - Shaw, Thomas, Esquire, for the Hawick District of Burghs
  - Tennant, Harold John, Esquire, for the County of Berwick
- *April* 5—Wigram, Alfred Money, Esquire, for the County of Essex (Southern or Romford Division)
- *April* 9—Caldwell, James, Esquire, for the County of Lanark (Mid Division)

[*cont.*

PARLIAMENT—Commons—cont.

New Members Sworn—cont.

May 8—Moulton, John Fletcher, Esquire, Q.C., for Hackney (Southern Division)

May 21—Reid, Robert Threshie, Esquire, Q.C., for the Dumfries District of Burghs

July 6—Batty Langley, Esquire, for Sheffield (Attercliffe Division)

Aug 17—Lord E. Talbot, for the County of Sussex (South-Western or Chichester Division)

New Writs Issued

Mar 12—For the Leith District of Burghs *v.* Ronald Craufurd Munro-Ferguson, Esquire, Commissioner of the Treasury
For Leeds (Western Division), *v.* The Right Hon. Herbert J. Gladstone, First Commissioner of Works

Mar 13—For Cambridgeshire (Northern or Wisbech Division), *v.* The Hon. Charles George Brand, Treasurer of Her Majesty's Household
For the Hawick District of Burghs, *v.* Thomas Shaw, Esquire, Solicitor General for Scotland

Mar 16—For the County of Berwick, *v.* The Right Hon. Edward Marjoribanks, called up to the House of Lords

Mar 19—For the County of Essex (South or Romford Division), *v.* James Theobald, Esquire, deceased

Mar 22—For Lanarkshire (Mid Division), *v.* John Wynford Philipps, Esquire, Chiltern Hundreds

April 27—For the Borough of Hackney (Southern Division), *v.* Sir C. Russell, G.C.M.G., Manor of Northstead

May 3—For the Dumfries District of Burghs, *v.* Robert Threshie Reid, Esquire, Q.C., Her Majesty's Solicitor General

June 26—For Sheffield (Attercliffe Division), *v.* The Hon. Bernard J. E. Coleridge, Chiltern Hundreds

Aug 10—For the County of Sussex (South-Western or Chichester Division), *v.* The Right Hon. W. C. Gordon Lennox, Manor of Northstead

Aug 22—For the Borough of Leicester, *v.* J. A. Picton, Esquire, Chiltern Hundreds
For the Borough of Leicester, *v.* Sir J. Whitehead, Manor of Northstead

Aug 23—For Kilkenny County (Southern Division), *v.* Patrick Alexander Chane, Esquire, Chiltern Hundreds

PARLIAMENT—Commons—cont.

Orders and Resolutions Mar 12 [22] 36

"Parliamentary Debates" Indexes

Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 5 [22] 1444; Qs. Mr. Bartley, Mr. A. C. Morton; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 31 [25] 16

Parliamentary Elections (see that title)

Parliamentary Papers

Distribution, Select Com. nominated *April* 2 [22] 1216; Report *June* 20 [25] 1608

Indexes to Select Committee Evidence, Q. Mr. H. J. Wilson; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 16 [28] 1231

Parliamentary Reports, Blue Books, &c., Printing of

Debate on, in Com. of *Supply*, *Aug* 18 [28] 1559, &c.

Privilege

Lord Rosebery's Speech at Edinburgh, Res. (Lord R. Churchill) *Mar* 19 [22] 588

Voluntary Conveyances Bill, Blocking of, by Mr. Perks, Obs. Mr. Pritchard-Morgan, Sir W. Ingram, Sir W. Harcourt, Mr. Perks, Sir R. Webster *April* 17 [23] 638

Prorogation of Parliament Aug 25

Questions

Qs. Mr. A. C. Morton, Mr. Weir; As. Mr. J. Morley, Mr. Speaker *Aug* 24 [29] 423

Rules and Order of Debate (see under title SPEAKER, The)

Sittings and Adjournments of the House

Alteration of Date of Meeting, Statement (Sir W. Harcourt) *Mar* 20 [22] 785

Derby Day, Q. Sir W. Lawson; A. Mr. Speaker *May* 31 [25] 42; Q. Sir H. Fletcher; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 4, 311; Res. (Mr. Maclure) *June* 5, 429

Easter Adjournment, Res. (Sir W. Harcourt) *Mar* 22 [22] 880

Exemptions from Standing Orders, *Mar* 13 [22] 156; *April* 5, 1461; *April* 17 [23] 648; *May* 10 [24] 814; *May* 29, 1546; *July* 20 [27] 563; *Aug* 10 [28] 570; *Aug* 14, 1000

Friday Sitting, Q. Mr. Dalziel; A. Mr. Speaker *May* 10 [24] 812

[*cont.*

PARLIAMENT—Commons—cont.

Sittings and Adjournments of the House—cont.

Return ordered *July* 31 [27] 1496

Sittings of the House, Return ordered *July* 31 [27] 1496

Suspension of the Twelve o'Clock Rule, Qs. Mr. A. J. Balfour; As. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 12 [23] 637

Whitsuntide Adjournment May 10 [24] 901

Speaker, The

Deputy Speaker, Q. Sir D. Macfarlane; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 3 [22] 1255

Indisposition of—The Chairman of Ways and Means took the Chair as Deputy Speaker Mar 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 29, 30

(For Rulings see title SPEAKER, The)

Standing Orders

Obs. Mr. A. J. Balfour, Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Mar* 19 [22] 608

Betterment Clauses, Aug 16 [28] 1220

Exemption from (see under sub-heading *Sittings and Adjournments of the House*)

Housing of the Working Classes, Q. Mr. Stuart-Wortley; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 7 [28] 255

Vacation of Seat on Succession to Peerage

Motions for Select Com. (Mr. J. Chamberlain) *June* 28 [26] 397; (Mr. Asquith) *July* 6, 1164

Discharge and Addition to, Aug 3 [28] 116; Report *Aug* 9, 548

Parliament Buildings, Labour on

Q. Mr. Labouchere; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *June* 5 [25] 414

Parliament Street Improvements

References to, in Debate on *Supply, May* 21 [24] 967, 969

PARLIAMENTARY CHARITY COMMISSIONER—MR. F. S. STEVENSON

Parliamentary Elections

Attercliffe Vacancy, Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. Hunter; As. Mr. Speaker, Sir W. Harcourt *June* 29 [26] 568

Berwickshire, New Writ for, Q. Mr. Hozier; A. Mr. T. E. Ellis *Mar* 14 [22] 296

Breconshire Polling Districts, Copy pres. *Aug* 16 [28] 1355

Compound Householders' Grievances, Q. Sir H. James; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 10 [24] 761; Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 24, 1165

Parliamentary Elections—cont.

Derby Polling Districts, Copy pres. *May* 8 [24] 692

Expenses, Qs. Mr. J. Rowlands; As. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 31 [25] 34; *July* 9 [26] 1195; *July* 18 [27] 277

Res. (Mr. J. Rowlands) *May* 25 [24] 1329

Huddersfield Polling Districts, Copy pres. *July* 19 [27] 488

Irish Valuations of Electoral Divisions, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 31 [25] 26

Lord Rosebery's Visit to Edinburgh, Qs. Mr. Renshaw, Mr. Hozier, Sir J. Gorst, Mr. Dalziel; As. Sir W. Harcourt *Mar* 15 [22] 347

Res. (Lord R. Churchill) *Mar* 19 [22] 588

Police Duty, Q. Mr. Arnold-Forster; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 7 [24] 473

Re-election on Appointment to Office, Q. Mr. Priestley; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 17 [23] 632

Registers—Returns, Q. Mr. Stuart-Wortley; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 26 [23] 1427

Registration Expenses, Qs. Sir J. Lubbock, Lord R. Churchill, Mr. Darling; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 1 [24] 46

Returning Officers' Charges, Q. Sir H. Meysey-Thompson; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 29 [24] 1531; Q. Sir H. Meysey-Thompson; A. Mr. G. Russell *June* 26 [26] 234

Returning Officers in Scotland (see under title SCOTLAND)

Sussex Electors—Return, Q. Mr. H. Johnstone; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 17 [23] 621

Vacation of Seat on Succession to Peerage (see that title under *Parliament*)

Voters in Scotland and Ireland—Return, Qs. Mr. Mowbray, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; As. Mr. G. Russell *April* 30 [23] 1688

Warwickshire Polling Districts, Copy pres. *Mar* 12 [22] 129

Parliamentary Elections Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Howell; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 456

Withdrawn *May* 23 [24] 1132

Parliamentary Elections (County of London Saturday Poll) Bill

c. Intro., Captain Norton; Read 1° *April* 3 [22] 1316

[Dropped]

Parliamentary Elections (Returning Officers) (Ireland) Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Tuite; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 454

Withdrawn *May* 10 [24] 909

Parliamentary Register (Lodgers)

Return pres. May 10 [24] 911

[*cont.*

Parochial Electors (Registration Acceleration) Bill
c. Motion for Leave (Mr. Shaw-Lefevre); Read 1° *April* 19 [23] 864
2R.; Debate adjourned *April* 30, 1779
Debate resumed; Read 2°, and com. to Select Com. *May* 21 [24] 915
Select Com. nominated *May* 29, 1636
Select Com.—Papers, &c., ordered *June* 1 [25] 272
Report from Select Com. *June* 14, 1164
Con. in Com.; R.P. *June* 25 [26] 203; *July* 3, 872
Con. in Com., and Reported *July* 6, 1150
As amended, Con. *July* 9, 1279
Read 3°, and passed *July* 10, 1389
l. Read 1ª *July* 12, 1446
Read 2ª *July* 19 [27] 334
Com.; Reported, and Re-com. to Standing Com. *July* 20, 537
Reported *July* 24, 790
Amendts. reported *July* 26, 998
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 27, 1116
c. Lords Amendts. con., and agreed to *July* 27, 1218
l. Royal Assent *July* 31
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 32]

Parochial Electors (Registration Acceleration) Bill
Qs. Mr. Clancy, Mr. Carson, Mr. Macartney, Mr. Darling; As. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 22 [22] 864; Q. Mr. W. Long; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 19 [23] 859; Q. Mr. Channing; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 28 [26] 455
Registration of Electors in Leicestershire, Q. Mr. C. M'Laren; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 1 [24] 20
Revising the Register, Q. Mr. W. Long; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 10 [24] 761

Parochial Electors (Registration Acceleration) [Cost of Revising Barristers]
c. Res., con. in Com. *May* 23 [24] 1132
Reported *May* 24, 1256

Partridges' Eggs, Sentence for Stealing (see under title *Law, &c.*)

Passenger Steamers (see under *Merchant Shipping*)

Patent Agents Bill
c. Intro., Mr. A. Gibbs; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 451
Read 2° *April* 4, 1373
Select Com. Special Report *July* 25 [27] 952
Reported without Amendt. *July* 25, 952

Patent Agents Registration Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Warmington; Read 1° *April* 4 [22] 1380
Read 2°, and com. to Select Com. *April* 11 [23] 171
Select Com. nominated *April* 20, 1068
Reported, &c. *July* 25 [27] 952
Withdrawn *Aug* 6 [28] 228

Patent Office Fees
Qs. Mr. A. C. Morton; As. Mr. Mundella *April* 12 [23] 195; *April* 19, 832; Q. Mr. A. C. Morton; A. Mr. Burt *April* 26, 1426

Patents—New Rules
Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 23 [29] 382

Patriotic Fund
Copy pres. June 28 [26] 516

PAUL, Mr. H. W., *Edinburgh, S.*
Bengal Jury Commission [26] 119
Church Patronage Bill, 2R. [24] 146
Civil List Pension to Professor Rhys-Davids [26] 1486
Coal Strike in Scotland [29] 420
"Countess of Aberdeen," Loss of the [23] 1424
Dog Licence Fines [29] 15
Edinburgh Museum Attendants [24] 1392
Forth at Cruickness, Pollution of [27] 1569
Habitual Offenders in Scotland [22] 1435; [25] 1221
House of Commons—Structural Arrangements [22] 905
India, Government of, Res. [28] 1095, 1097
Indian Civil Service Examinations [24] 1536
Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Con. [28] 517, 541, 543
Mineral Oil for the Army [25] 1084
Period of Qualification and Elections Bill, 2R. [24] 110, 116
Petroleum Acts—Flash Point Oil, &c. [23] 972; [25] 411; [26] 120
Poet Laureateship [27] 178
Post Cards—Adhesive Stamps [28] 440
Post Office Savings Bank Deposits—Withdrawals by Telegraph [22] 868
Rio, Arrests at [25] 806
Scotch Police Pensions [26] 1482
Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [22] 1138
Supply—Anarchists [28] 1459
Supreme Court of Judicature (Procedure) Bill [25] 292; 2R., 386
Volunteer Decoration [23] 1672

PAULTON, Mr. J. M., *Durham, Bishop Auckland*
Industrial Schools Bill, 2R. [27] 1363; Com. 1492
Mines (Eight Hours) Bill [27] 807
Thames Conservancy Bill, Con. [26] 394

Pauper Children (see under *Local Government Board*)

Paupers Deportation (Ireland) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Flynn; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 453
[Dropped]

Payment of Members (see under *Parliament*)

PEARSON, Right Hon. Sir C. J., *Edinburgh and St. Andrews Universities*
Burgh Police (Scotland) Act (1892) Amendment Bill, 2R. [25] 493
Crofters Holdings (Scotland) Acts Amendment, &c., Bill, 2R. [23] 1636
Fatal Accidents Inquiry (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [24] 1081
Finance Bill, Com. [26] 254, 255
Home Rule for Scotland, Res. [22] 1301, 1303
Local Government (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [24] 1007; Con. [28] 412, 490, 493, 510, 530, 538, 576, 578, 589, 590, 595, 597, 609, 613
Mussel Scalps (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [26] 875
Scotch Commissary Clerks and the Finance Bill [25] 1628
Scotch Education Code, Res. [24] 907
Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [23] 707, 715, 719, 720

PEASE, Mr. H. F., *York, N.R., Cleveland*
Dangerous Amusements at Fairs [24] 599
Thames Conservancy Bill, Con. [26] 1293

PEASE, Mr. J. A., *Northumberland, Tyneside*
Mines (Eight Hours) Bill [27] 806; Com. [28] 808, 813, 1016, 1017, 1022, 1045
Newcastle and Gateshead Water Bill, 2R. [24] 1522
Pemba Clove Plantations [24] 758
Recruiting in Africa [24] 1415
Samoa—Berlin Act [24] 1404
Slave Trade in Africa, &c. [23] 1214; [24] 210, 602, 603, 757; [25] 285; [26] 117, 1297
Supply—African Affairs—Slave Trade, &c. [22] 394; [25] 234, 236, 238, 239; [27] 1336, 1338
Wild Birds' Protection Act (1880) Amendment Bill, Com. [23] 1203

PEASE, Sir J. W., *Durham, Barnard Castle*
Business of the House [26] 320; [27] 287
Cardiff Corporation Bill, Con. [26] 667
Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill, 2R. [23] 945
[*cont.*

PEASE, Sir J. W.—*cont.*
Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 618, 621; Com. [26] 143, 733
Indian Railway Companies Bill—Motion for Leave [23] 1066
Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, 2R. [23] 1330, 1341; Com. [28] 800, 801, 812, 858
Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, 2R [24] 725
Railway and Canal Traffic Bill, 2R. [26] 102
Railway Rates and Charges Provisional Order (Easingwold Railway, &c.) Bill, 2R. [24] 1259
Truro and Newquay Junction Railway Bill, Con. [24] 1135

Peebles Foot Pavements Provisional Order Bill
c. Intro., Sir G. Trevelyan; Read 1° *July* 3 [26] 876
Read 2° *July* 10, 1391
Reported *July* 18 [27] 331
Read 3°, and passed *July* 19, 487
l. Read 1ª *July* 20, 537

PEEL, Right Hon. A. W. (*see* SPEAKER, The)

Peers Disabilities Removal Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Brodrick; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 459
[Dropped]

PEMBA (*see under* AFRICA)

"*Penarth*," *Loss of the* (see under *Merchant Shipping*)

PENN, Mr. J., *Lewisham*
Engine-Room Complements [22] 563
"Victoria" Disaster [22] 728, 731

Pensions
Army and Navy Questions (see under titles *Army* and *Navy*)
Civil List (see that title)
Political—Lord Emlyn, Q. Mr. A. C. Morton; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 29 [24] 1536

Period of Qualification and Elections Bill
c. Motion for Leave (Mr. J. Morley) *April* 13 [23] 368; Read 1°, 396
2R.; Debate adjourned *May* 1 [24] 52
2R.; Debate resumed and further adjourned *May* 3, 249
Read 2° *May* 4, 378
Withdrawn *July* 18 [27] 332

Period of Qualification and Elections Bill
Qs. Sir H. James; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 19 [23] 843; *April* 26, 1453
Compound Householders' Grievances, Q. Sir H. James; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *May* 10 [24] 761; Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 24, 1165
Point of Order (Mr. G. Bowles) *May* 3 [24] 344
Registration Expenses, Qs. Sir J. Lubbock, Lord R. Churchill, Mr. Darling; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 1 [24] 46

Perjury Bill
l. Pres., Lord Herschell; Read 1ª *May* 28 [24] 1367
Read 2ª *June* 7 [25] 545
Com.; Reported; Re-com. to Standing Com. *June* 18, 1338

PERKS, Mr. R. W., *Lincolnshire, Louth*
Church Patronage Bill, 2R. [24] 159
Marriages (Attendance of Registrars) Bill, Intro. [22] 459
Privilege — Voluntary Conveyances Bill, Blocking of [23] 644

PERSIA
Sir M. Durand, Appointment of—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *July* 30 [27] 1340, &c.
Trade Impositions at Kerman, Q. Mr. Snape; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 5 [25] 421

PERU
Affairs, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 4 [25] 291
External Debt, Q. Mr. W. Isaacson; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 4 [25] 304
Her Majesty's Minister at, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 12 [23] 183

Petroleum Acts—Select Committee, &c.
Qs. Mr. Paul; As. Mr. Asquith *May* 25 [24] 1262; *June* 25 [26] 120; Com. nominated *June* 28, 515; Report *July* 17 [27] 1219
Disastrous Fire at Clerkenwell, Q. Mr. Paul; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 20 [23] 972
Explosive Substances Committee, Report ordered *July* 6 [26] 1168
Fatal Lamp Accident in Belfast, Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 5 [25] 410
Flash Point Oil, Q. Mr. A. Cross; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 25 [24] 1261; Q. Mr. Paul; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 5 [25] 411
Mineral Oil for the Army, Q. Mr. Paul; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 14 [25] 1084

PICKARD, Mr. B., *York, W.R., Normanton*
Business of the House, Res. [25] 61
Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, 2R. [23] 1338 1361

PICKERSGILL, Mr. E. H., *Bethnal Green, S.W.*
East London Water Bill, 2R. [22] 1414
Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, 2R. [27] 870, 871, 890; Com. [28] 55, 381, 394, 395
Expedition against the Sofas [22] 144
Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 658
Habitual Inebriates [27] 26
Imprisonment of Children [22] 150; [23] 1099
Lady Visitors for Prisons [23] 331, 631
London Prison Accommodation Inquiry [23] 1100
London Schools, Unwieldy Classes in [25] 807
Police Court Cell Accommodation in London [25] 1090
Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Com. [24] 1118
Prisons—Female Prisoners—Death at Battersea Police Station [25] 808
Supply
  Metropolitan Police Stations—Matrons [28] 1597
  Post Office [29] 258
  Rating of Government Property [28] 1397, 1400, 1408
Valuation (Metropolis) Bill, Intro. [22] 1092; 2R. [24] 198

PICTON, Mr. J. A., *Leicester*
Children, Imprisonment of, in Holloway Gaol [22] 150
Matlock School Fees [23] 1676
Middlesex Records [24] 215
Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 516

PIERPOINT, Mr. R., *Warrington*
Aldershot—Sewage Disposal [28] 21
Army Estimates
  Medical Department—Dr. Briggs [26] 810, 814, 815, 816, 819, 820, 824
  Military Education [26] 1121
Channel Islands Mail Service [29] 161
Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill, 2R. [23] 947, 1201
Egypt—Corvée [26] 682, 1190
Gymnastic Instructors for the Army [27] 666
London Parks [27] 361
Nile Reservoirs [25] 1471
Trinidad Harbour [24] 763
Woolwich Ordnance Factories—Piece and Time Work [24] 763

Piers and Harbours Provisional Orders
Copies pres. Mar 12 [22] 127; *April* 18 [23] 812

Piers and Harbours Provisional Orders Bills
(No. 1)
c. Intro., Mr. Mundella; Read 1° *April* 9 [22] 1688
Read 2° *April* 17 [23] 745
Reported *April* 26, 1549
As amended, Con. *April* 27, 1637
Read 3°, and passed *April* 30, 1783
l. Read 1ª *May* 1 [24] 19
Read 2ª *May* 10, 749
Com.; Reported *May* 28, 1366
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 1 [25] 161
Royal Assent *June* 18
[57° Vic. c. xvi]

(No. 2)
c. Intro., Mr. Burt; Read 1° *April* 30 [23] 1784
Read 2° *May* 8 [24] 691
Reported *May* 24, 1255
As amended, Con. *May* 25, 1361
Read 3°, and passed *May* 28, 1502
l. Read 1ª *May* 29, 1508
Read 2ª *June* 7 [25] 546
Com.; Standing Com. negatived *June* 26 [26] 217
Amendts. reported *June* 28, 390
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 29, 560
c. Lords Amendts. agreed to *July* 3, 876
l. Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxi]

(No. 3)
c. Intro., Mr. Burt; Read 1° *May* 24 [24] 1256
Read 2° *June* 4 [25] 388
Reported *June* 26 [26] 319
As amended, Con. *June* 27, 372
Read 3°, and passed *June* 28, 514
l. Read 1ª *June* 29, 559
Read 2ª *July* 9, 1185
Com.; Reported, &c. *July* 13, 1555
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 16 [27] 1
Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxii]

(No. 4)
c. Intro., Mr. Burt; Read 1° *June* 11 [25] 891
Read 2° *June* 19, 1544
Reported *June* 29 [26] 656
As amended, Con.; Read 3°, and passed *July* 2, 771
l. Read 1ª *July* 2, 661
Read 2ª *July* 9, 1185
Com.; Reported, &c. *July* 13, 1555
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 16 [27] 1
Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxiii]

Pilotage
Copy pres. May 10 [24] 912

Pilotage Bill
c. Intro., Sir A. Rollit; Read 1° *June* 15 [25] 1320
2R. deferred *June* 21, 1725
Withdrawn *July* 9 [26] 1278

PINKERTON, Mr. J., *Galway*
Land Tenure (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [23] 124, 147
Londonderry Asylum [27] 1118
Queen's Colleges, Compulsory Retirement in [22] 1247
Small Holdings (Ireland), Res. [23] 423, 424

Pistols and Revolvers Accidents
Res. (Marquess of Carmarthen) *Mar* 30 [22] 1036

Pistols Bill
l. Pres., Lord Stanley of Alderley; Read 1ª *April* 9 [22] 1565
Read 2ª *April* 20 [23] 957
Com.; Re-com. to Standing Com. *May* 1 [24] 3
Reported from Standing Com. *June* 12 [25] 895
Amendts. reported *June* 14, 1058
Order for 3R. read and discharged *June* 15, 1205
Read 3ª *July* 2 [26] 657

Places of Worship, &c. (Rating) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Clarence Smith; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 459
[Dropped]

Places of Worship (Sites) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. J. E. Ellis; Read 1° *Mar* 19 [22] 675
Order for 2R. *April* 10 [23] 110
2R. deferred *May* 21 [24] 993
Withdrawn *July* 23 [27] 788

Plate Duties
Qs. Baron F. de Rothschild, Mr. J. Rowlands; As. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 8 [24] 607

PLAYFAIR, LORD (Lord in Waiting)
Antique Casts at South Kensington Museum [23] 1571
Boards of Conciliation Bill, 2R. [26] 385; 3R. [27] 1221
Education Code (1894), Res. [23] 820, 822
Endowed Schools Act, &c. (Scheme for the County of Anglesey), Res. [23] 595, 597
Endowed Schools Act, &c. (Scheme for the County of Flint), Res. [23] 601, 602

[*cont.*

PLAYFAIR, Lord—*cont.*
- Income Tax on Lighthouses [26] 1174, 1175
- Marking of Foreign and Colonial Produce, Select Com. [23] 452, 453
- Merchandise Marks Act (1887) Amendment Bill, 2R. [25] 770
- Notice of Accidents Bill, 2R. [25] 1612, 1617; Com. [26] 113; Report of Amendts., 939
- Post Office and the Employment of Reserve Soldiers [24] 449, 450, 451, 452, 453; [25] 3
- Religious Instruction in Board Schools, Res. [24] 1507
- Sea Fisheries (Shell Fish) Bill, 2R. [26] 1182

Pleuro-Pneumonia (see under *Agriculture*)

Plumbers' Registration Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Lees Knowles; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 461
- Order for 2R.; Debate adjourned *April* 12 [23] 305
- Withdrawn *Aug* 15 [28] 1151

PLUNKET, Right Hon. D. R., *Dublin University*
- Land Tenure (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [23] 158, 162
- Railway and Canal Traffic Bill, Com. [28] 637, 643, 645
- Small Holdings (Ireland), Res. [23] 414
- Supply
  - Extension of Admiralty Buildings [22] 986, 989, 990, 992
  - Revenue Department Buildings [24] 914
  - South Kensington Museum [22] 1072

PLUNKETT, Hon. H. C., *Dublin Co., S.*
- Indian Official Publications [23] 15
- Ireland—Registry of Deeds Office [22] 1515
- Margarine Act [22] 441
- Margarine Bill, Intro. [23] 111
- Supply—Administration of Ireland [25] 1579, 1592
- Westport Disaster [25] 1225

Pluralists in the Public Service
Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 10 [24] 799

Poet Laureateship
Qs. Mr. D. A. Thomas, Mr. Paul, Mr. W. R. Shaw, Mr. Macfarlane; As. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 17 [27] 179

Police (see under *Law and Justice and Police*)
Scotch and Irish Questions (*see under* SCOTLAND and IRELAND)

Police and Sanitary Regulations
Appointment of Com. *April* 3 [22] 1239

Police and Sanitary Regulations Bills
Special Report *July* 10 [26] 1391

Police Burghs (Scotland) Harbours Bill
c. Intro., Mr. G. Murray; Read 1° *Aug* [28] 10, 651
[Dropped]

Police Courts (see under title *Law and Justice and Police*)

Police (Metropolis) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. J. Rowlands; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 460
- 2R. deferred *April* 4, 1379

[Dropped]

Police (*Slaughter of Injured Animals*) *Bill* (see title *Injured Animals Bill*)

Political Offices Pension Act (1869) Repeal Bill
c. Intro., Mr. A. C. Morton; Read 1° *May* 25 [24] 1364
[Dropped]

Political Pensions Act
Lord Emlyn, Q. Mr. A. C. Morton; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 29 [24] 1536

Polling Districts, Copies pres.
- *Breconshire, Aug* 16 [28] 1355
- *Derby, May* 8 [24] 692
- *Huddersfield, July* 19 [27] 488
- *Warwickshire, Mar* 12 [22] 129

PONDOLAND (*see under* AFRICA)

Poor Law (see under *Local Government Board*)
(For Scotch and Irish Questions *see under* SCOTLAND and IRELAND)

Poor Law Amendment Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Lambert; Read 1° *April* 17 [23] 748
[Dropped]

Poor Law Guardians (Ireland) (Women) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. T. W. Russell; Read 1° *May* 22 [24] 1084
- 2R. deferred *June* 5 [25] 494
- Read 2° *June* 19, 1544
- Con. in Com.; R.P. *June* 20, 1608; *June* 22 [26] 104

[Dropped]

Poor Law Union Officers (Ireland) Superannuation Bill
c. Intro., Mr. T. W. Russell; Read 1° *May* 22 [24] 1084
2R. deferred *June* 12 [25] 990
Withdrawn *July* 23 [27] 788

Poor Relief (Ireland) Bill
c. Intro , Mr. Hayden; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 455
[Dropped]

PORTUGAL
Manica Plateau, Q. Mr. J. W. Lowther; A. Sir E. Grey *Mar* 19 [22] 584
Treaty Series (*No.* 9), Copy pres. *April* 13 [23] 428
Zambesi—Collision with Portuguese Troops, Qs. Mr. J. W. Lowther, Sir A. Rollit; As. Sir E. Grey *Mar* 19 [22] 583

"*Port Yarrock*," *The* (see under *Merchant Shipping*)

POST OFFICE (ENGLAND & WALES)
Postmaster General—Mr. ARNOLD MORLEY
African Mails, Q. Mr. Conybeare; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 5 [22] 1461
American Mail Routes, Qs. Captain Donelan, Mr. Dane, Mr. Field; As. Mr. A. Morley *April* 19 [23] 844; Qs. Mr. W. Kenny, Mr. M. Healy; As. Mr. A. Morley *May* 8 [24] 604; Q. Mr. M. Healy; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 10, 773; Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 24, 1182; Q. Mr. P. Smith; A. Mr. A. Morley *June* 22 [26] 5
Distances between Ports, Q. Sir J. Leng; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 6 [22] 1506
Queenstown and Moville, Qs. Sir J. Leng, Captain Donelan; As. Mr. A. Morley *April* 6 [22] 1506
Return ordered *April* 4 [22] 1380
Return pres. *April* 16 [23] 592
Annual Leave, Q. Mr. Cohen; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 13 [28] 764
Annual Report, Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 3 [28] 16
Atlantic Steamship Routes, Qs. Mr. Ross; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth, Mr. A. Morley *June* 4 [25] 309
Australian Mail Contract, Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 24 [24] 1177
Australian Mails and the United States Riots, Qs. Mr. Hogan; As. Mr. A. Morley *July* 13 [26] 1572; *July* 19 [27] 364
Auxiliary Postmen—Christmas Duty, Q. Mr. J. Rowlands; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 20 [29] 19
Bank Holidays, Q. Mr. E. H. Bayley; A Mr. A. Morley *May* 7 [24 462
Book Packets, Re-directing, Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. A. Morley *June* 7 [25] 555
[*cont.*

POST OFFICE (ENGLAND & WALES)—cont.
Book Post, Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 17 [23] 626
Brynmawr — Mr. Isaac and Political Organisations, Q. Mr. S. Leighton; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 17 [27] 160
Buildings, Vote for, Con. in. Com. *May* 21 [24] 924, &c.
Canadian Pacific Railway—Parcels from Hong Kong, Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. A. Morley *June* 4 [25] 287
Channel Islands Mail Service, Q. Mr. Pierpoint; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 21 [29] 161
China
British Postal Agencies, Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 4 [25] 288
Tien-Tsin Postal Arrangements, Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 31 [25] 8; Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 4, 291
Classification, Q. Viscount Wolmer; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 26 [27] 1010
Coldbath Fields Money Order Office, Q. Mr. Halsey; A. Mr. A. Morley *June* 5 [25] 408; Qs. Mr. Bartley, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Hanbury; As. Mr. A. Morley *July* 2 [26] 687; Qs. Mr. Halsey, Sir A. Rollit, Mr. Bartley; As. Mr. A. Morley *July* 27 [27] 1120; Q. Mr. E. H. Bayley; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 2, 1582; Qs. Mr. Hanbury, Mr. Darling; As. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 3 [28] 20; References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *May* 21 [24] 949, &c.
Contracts — Prison-Made Goods, Q. Mr. Matthews; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 27 [23] 1586; Q. Mr. Boulnois; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 28 [24] 1406; Qs. Mr. Muntz; As. Mr. A. Morley *June* 14 [25] 1089; *June* 15, 1222
Countermen, Metropolitan, Q. Mr. Butcher; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 9 [22] 1569
Discharged Soldiers as Postmen, Q. Sir J. Whitehead; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 17 [23] 636
District and Parish Councils and Post Office Servants, Qs. Mr. C. Williams, Sir C. Dilke; As. Mr. A. Morley *July* 2 [26] 680; Q. Mr. Storey; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 20 [29] 25; References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 21 [29] 259, &c.
Envelopes, Q. Mr. Griffith-Boscawen; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 30 [27] 1252
Express Letters, Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 23 [29] 373
Express Messenger Service, Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. A. Morley *Mar* 13 [22] 138
Halfpenny Postal Rate, Q. Mr. Dane; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 19 [23] 847
Hong Kong Plague—Infection, Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 28 [26] 444
Idle Post Office, Q. Mr. Byles; A. Mr. A. Morley *Mar* 20 [22] 697
Inland Branch, Q. Mr. Diamond; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 6 [22] 1513
Insurance Department, Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 3 [28] 16
[*cont.*

POST OFFICE (ENGLAND & WALES)—cont.

International Reply Letter Cards, Q. Captain Norton; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 17 [28] 1389

Irish Questions (see under title IRELAND)

Japanese Mail Arrangements, Q. Mr. Baird; A. Mr. A. Morley *June* 28 [26] 447

Japanese Parcel Post, Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. A. Morley *June* 7 [25] 556

Leeds, Q. Mr. Jackson; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *May* 31 [25] 11

Letter Boxes on Trains, Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 27 [27] 1127

Liverpool, Qs. Mr. Saunders; As. Mr. A. Morley *April* 19 [23] 852; *April* 30, 1679; Q. Mr. W. Long; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 31 [27] 1392; Q. Mr. Lawrence; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *Aug* 22 [29] 278
References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *May* 21 [24] 1252

London Postal Appointments, Q. Dr. R. Ambrose; A. Mr. A. Morley *June* 12 [25] 908

Lottery Advertisements, Qs. Mr. Webb, Mr. Flynn, Sir J. Whitehead; As. Mr. A. Morley *April* 24 [23] 1221

Mail Contracts—Fair Contract Clause, Qs. Mr. M. Austin, Mr. Bodkin; As. Mr. A. Morley *May* 25 [24] 1275

Manchester, Qs. Mr. Schwann; As. Mr. A. Morley *April* 2 [22] 1101; *July* 10 [26] 1314

Metropolitan Countermen and Telegraphists, Q. Mr. Butcher; A. Mr. A. Morley *June* 28 [26] 436

National Telephone Company (see sub-heading *Telephones*)

Newspaper Postage, Qs. Mr. Saunders; As. Mr. A. Morley *April* 19 [23] 853; *April* 30, 1679

Pacific Cable Route, Q. Mr. Hogan; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 19 [27] 363

Penny Postage and the Colonies, Qs. Captain Sinclair, Mr. H. Heaton; As. Mr. A. Morley *July* 31 [27] 1397

Penny Postage to the United States, Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. A. Morley *June* 26 [26] 222

Postal Orders, Theft of, Q. Captain Naylor-Leyland; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 28 [24] 1407

Post Cards
- *Adhesive Stamps*, Qs. Mr. H. Heaton; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 31 [25] 6; *July* 3 [26] 799; Q. Mr. Paul; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 9 [28] 440; Q. Mr. Ernest Spencer; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 10, 556; Q. Major Jones; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 23 [29] 370; Qs. Mr. Benson, Mr. H. Heaton; As. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 24, 417
- *Re-direction of* (see sub-heading *Re-directed Postal Matter*)

Postmasters and Private Agencies, Q. Mr. Buchanan; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 8 [24] 601

Queen's Birthday—Holiday, Q. Sir J. Leng; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 9 [22] 1587

[cont.

POST OFFICE (ENGLAND & WALES)—cont.

Re-directed Postal Matter, Qs. Mr. Wolff, Mr. Roby, Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Bartley; As. Mr. A. Morley *May* 31 [25] 23; Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. A. Morley *June* 7, 555; Q. Mr. W. Whitelaw; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 19 [27] 380

Registered Letters—Extra Postal Charge, Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 29 [24] 1533

Rural Postmen, Q. Mr. Luttrell; A. Mr. A. Morley *Mar* 20 [22] 681; Q. Mr. Hogan; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 31 [27] 1387

Salcombe Ferry—Carrying Postmen and Mails, Q. Mr. Mildmay; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 26 [27] 1025

Savings Banks
- Accounts pres.; to be printed *June* 8 [25] 760
- *Advertising*, Q. and Obs. Lord Stanley of Alderley, Earl of Rosebery *July* 10 [26] 1283
- *Savings Banks Act*, Q. Mr. J. E. Ellis; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 19 [24] 558
- *Thrift among School Children*, Q. Mr. Roundell; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 13 [23] 334
- *Trade Societies' Deposits and Investments*, Q. Mr. Howell; A. Mr. A. Morley *June* 11 [25] 793
- *Withdrawals by Telegraph*, Q. Mr. Paul; A. Mr. A. Morley *Mar* 22 [22] 868

Scotch Questions (see under title SCOTLAND)

Soldiers, Employment of, Qs. Major Rasch; As. Mr. A. Morley *May* 1 [24] 21; *Aug* 3 [28] 17
- Motions for a Return (Lord Wantage) *May* 7 [24] 446; *May* 31 [25] 3
- *Telegraphists' and Reservists' Pay*, Q. Major Rasch; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 21 [25] 1625

Stamps (*Contract of Messrs. De La Rue*), Copy pres. *Aug* 16 [28] 1355

Stationary Clerks, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 1 [24] 21; Q. Mr. Wason; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 25, 1270

Submarine Telegraph Company's Employés, Q. Mr. J. Rowlands; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 7 [24] 463

Sunday Extra Postage Charge in London, Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 29 [24] 1533

Superannuation Act, 1884, Copies pres. *Mar* 29 [22] 999; *April* 26 [23] 1552

Telegraphs
- *Burgh Heath*, Q. Mr. Bucknill; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 9 [22] 1578
- *Central Office*, Q. Colonel Lockwood; A. Mr. A. Morley *Mar* 30 [22] 1005; Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 17 [23] 625; Q. Mr. Kearley; A. Mr. A. Morley *June* 15 [25] 1215; Qs. Mr. M'Cartan; As. Mr. A. Morley *July* 13 [26] 1561; *July* 26 [27] 1014
- *Coast Communication between Start Bay and Dartmouth*, Q. Mr. Mildmay; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 26 [27] 1023

[cont.

POST OFFICE (ENGLAND & WALES)—cont.

- *Telegraphs*—cont.
  - *Departmental Committee*, Q. Mr. Macdonald; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 13 [23] 1249; *June* 25 [26] 124
  - *Examinations*, Q. Mr. Stock; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 8 [24] 595; Q. Mr. Butcher; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 5 [26] 946
  - *Highman, Henry—Superannuation Act, 1884*, Copy pres. *Mar* 29 [22] 999
  - *International Code*, Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. A. Morley *Mar* 15 [22] 303
  - *Liverpool Office* (see that sub-heading)
  - *Manchester Staff*, Q. Mr. Schwann; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 10 [26] 1314
  - *Metropolitan Clerks*, Q. Mr. Butcher; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 9 [22] 1569
  - *Mistakes in Transmission*, Qs. Sir G. Osborne Morgan, Mr. Bartley; As. Mr. A. Morley *July* 16 [27] 16
  - *Provincial Staff Grievances*, Q. Mr. J. O'Connor; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 13 [26] 1569
  - *Revenue*, Qs. Mr. J. E. Ellis; As. Mr. A. Morley *April* 19 [23] 825
  - *Sporting Telegrams for Newspapers*, Qs. Mr. R. Cooke, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 9 [28] 464
  - *Telegraphists*, Return pres. *June* 5 [25] 496; Printing of, *June* 28 [26] 516
  - *Vote for*, and Debate on *Aug* 21 [29] 263
- *Telephone Companies*, Qs. Sir J. Fergusson, Mr. Labouchere, Sir J. Whitehead; As. Mr. A. Morley *April* 30 [23] 1660; Qs. Captain Bagot, Mr. A. C. Morton, Mr. H. Heaton; As. Mr. A. Morley *June* 21 [25] 1631; Qs. Mr. H. Foster, Mr. Labouchere, Mr. H. Heaton, Mr. Hanbury; As. Mr. A. Morley *July* 27 [27] 1134; Q. Mr. H. Foster; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 31, 1395; Qs. Mr. A. C. Morton, Mr. Benn, Mr. Whittaker, Sir A. Rollit, Mr. H. Heaton; As. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 16 [28] 1248; Obs. Mr. Benn, Mr. A. Morley, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Storey *Aug* 16, 1269
- *Tracers*, Qs. Mr. K. Hardie; As. Mr. A. Morley *April* 26 [23] 1445; *June* 25 [26] 132
- *Trade Journals' Postage Rates*, Q. Mr. Mac Neill; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 10 [24] 769
- *Universal Delivery*, Q. Mr. Wickham; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 17 [23] 611
- *Vote for*, and Debate *Aug* 20 [29] 116; *Aug* 21, 254, &c.
- *Wales*
  - *Appointments*, Q. Mr. Spicer; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 30 [27] 1250
  - *Eglwyseg Rural Postman*, Q. Mr. H. Roberts; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 16 [28] 1253
  - *Postal Facilities in South Wales*, Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 3 [28] 23
- *West Indian and South American Mails*, Q. Mr. Hogan; A. Mr. A. Morley *Mar* 19 [22] 561
- *Wolverhampton Post Office*, Q. Sir A. Hickman; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 12 [26] 1481

Powell, Sir F. S., *Wigan*

- Army Estimates—Barracks, Sanitary Condition of [26] 1042
- Census [29] 165
- Charity Commission (Parliamentary Control), Res. [22] 1028
- Church Patronage Bill, 2R. [24] 156; Con. [27] 330
- Coal Mines (Check Weigher) Bill, 2R. [28] 1081
- Education Code (1894) [23] 745
- Education Report [26] 1076
- Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, Con. [28] 781
- Evening Schools Code [23] 1101; [24] 373
- Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, Com. [28] 1081
- Finance Bill, Com. [24] 1234, 1235; [25] 981; [26] 145; Con., 1354; [27] 43, 45
- Halsham School, Yorkshire [26] 1078
- Industrial Schools Bill, 2R. [27] 1363
- London County Council (General Powers) Bill, Con. [24] 1513
- Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, Com. [28] 807, 808, 835
- Music and Dancing Licences (Middlesex) Bill, Com. [24] 1123
- Police and Sanitary Regulations Committee [22] 1242
- Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Com. [24] 1092, 1102; Con., 1641, 1669
- Public Libraries (Scotland) Bill, Com. [24] 199
- Reach National School [28] 766
- Rivers Pollution Prevention Bill, Intro. [22] 785; 2R. [27] 331
- St. Edward's National School, Romford [28] 437
- Statute Law Revision Bill, Com. [28] 1080, 1353; Con., 1482, 1484, 1485
- Supply
  - British Museum [22] 831, 832
  - Census [29] 39
  - Colleges and Universities [29] 218
  - Education Vote [28] 779
  - Elementary Education—Requirements of the Education Department [22] 386
  - Home Office [27] 1305
  - National Portrait Gallery [29] 218
  - Ordnance Survey [24] 986
  - Public Education [29] 206
  - Quarantine System [28] 1481
  - Rating of Government Property [27] 1285
  - Training Colleges [22] 386
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Com. [27] 1179
- Ulverston National School [28] 438
- University Colleges, Report [26] 1077
- West Riding Rivers Conservancy Bill, Lords Amendts. [28] 5

Power, Mr. P. J., *Waterford, E.*

- Labourers' Cottages [24] 230, 1163
- Land Purchase in County Waterford—Case of T. Whelan [25] 1216, 1626
- Supply—House of Commons Kitchen Committee [24] 1295

POWERSCOURT, Lord
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [28] 751, 947, 952, 953

POWIS, Earl of
Welsh Benefices, Sale of [25] 1

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (see under *Animals*)

Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill
c. Intro., Sir R. Webster; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 455
Read 2° *April* 4, 1377; Con. in Com., R.P. *April* 9, 1687
Con. in Com., and Reported *May* 23 [24] 1085
As amended, Con.; Debate adjourned *May* 30, 1637
Con., as amended; Debate resumed; Read 3°, and passed *June* 6 [25] 540
l. Read 1ª *June* 7, 546
Read 2ª *June* 21, 1609
Com.; Reported, and Re-com. to Standing Com. *June* 25 [26] 106
Reported *July* 3, 779
Amendts. reported *July* 10, 1281
Read 3ª, with Amendts. *July* 17 [27] 157
c. Lords Amendts. con., and agreed to *July* 19, 487
l. Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 27]

Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill
l. Pres., Lord Herschell; Read 1ª *July* 19 [27] 357
Read 2ª *July* 23, 645
Reported *July* 26, 997
Com. *July* 27, 1116
Amendts. reported *July* 30, 1236
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 31, 1368
c. Read 1° *July* 31, 1493
2R. deferred *Aug* 2, 1662
Read 2° *Aug* 3 [28] 116
Con. in Com., R.P. *Aug* 9, 546
Com. deferred *Aug* 10, 649
Con. in Com., and Reported *Aug* 13, 879
As amended, Con.; Read 3°, and passed *Aug* 14, 1084
l. Commons Amendts. con., and agreed to *Aug* 16, 1216
Royal Assent *Aug* 17
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 41]

PRIESTLEY, Mr. B., *York, W.R., Pudsey*
Re-election on Appointment to Office [23] 632

Printing Contracts (see under *Government Contracts*)

Prison-Made Goods (see under *Trade, Board of*)

Prisons (see under title *Law and Justice and Police*)
(For Scotch and Irish Questions *see under* titles SCOTLAND and IRELAND)

Private Bills (see under *Parliament—Miscellaneous*)

Privy Council, Judicial Committee of
Motion for Address *Aug* 13 [28] 653

Privy Council Office
Vote for, Con. in Com. *Aug* 17 [28] 1481

Prize Courts Bill
l. Pres., Lord Herschell; Read 1ª *May* 8 [24] 579
Read 2ª *June* 12 [25] 893
Com.; Re-com. to Standing Com. *June* 18, 1333
Reported *June* 19, 1447
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 6 [26] 1062
c. 2R. deferred *July* 25 [27] 950; *July* 26, 1105
Read 2° *July* 30, 1364
Con. in Com., R.P., *July* 31, 1494
Con. in Com. and Reported *Aug* 3 [28] 116
As amended, Con. *Aug* 9, 548
Read 3°, and passed *Aug* 10, 650
l. Commons Amendts. con., and agreed to *Aug* 13, 756
Royal Assent *Aug* 17
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 39]

Procedure of Parliament Amendment Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Labouchere; Read 1° *April* 24 [23] 1327
[Dropped]

Property, Unwilled, and the Crown
Qs. Colonel Palmer, Mr. Bartley; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 11 [25] 798

PROVAND, Mr. A. D., *Glasgow, Blackfriars*
Bettisfield Railway Collision [23] 1442
Financial Relations Commission [23] 1660
Indian Mines [23] 1093; [29] 355
Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Lords Amendts. [29] 303
Mines (Eight Hours) Bill [24] 238
Parliamentary Elections (Expenses), Res. [24] 1356
"Port Yarrock," Loss of the [22] 1104
Shop Hours Act (1892) Amendment Bill, Intro. [23] 1328; Con. [24] 1127, 1128, 1129, 1130

Provident Association of London
Q. Mr. J. Collings; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 19 [27] 367

Public Accounts Committee (see under *Parliament—Committees*)

Public Bills (see under *Parliament*)

Public Buildings
Vote for, Con. in Com. *May* 21 [24] 954

Public Buildings (London) Bill
c. Intro., Colonel Hughes; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 460
Read 2° *April* 3, 1315
Com.; R.P. *April* 11 [23] 170; *April* 13, 437; *April* 27, 1637; *May* 2 [24] 200
Con. in Com., and reported *May* 23, 1124
As amended, Con.; Debate adjourned *May* 30, 1680
As amended, Con.; Further Proceedings adjourned *July* 4 [26] 919
Withdrawn *Aug* 8 [28] 427

Public Health (Scotland) Act (see under SCOTLAND)

Public Houses—Coupons for Children
Q. Sir W. Lawson; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 18 [25] 1355

Public Houses (Hours of Closing) (Scotland) Bill
c. Intro., Sir C. Cameron; Read 1° *Mar* 21 [22] 853
[Dropped]

Public Income and Expenditure
Return pres. July 20 [27] 644

Public Libraries (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Field; Read 1° *April* 17 [23] 748
Read 2° *May* 10 [24] 909
Order for Com. read and discharged, and com. to a Select Com. *May* 21, 994
Select Com. nominated *May* 29, 1636
Select Com.; Members discharged from and added to *June* 11 [25] 891
Select Com. ordered, &c. *June* 22 [26] 104
Reported from Select Com., and Re-com *July* 17 [27] 275
Con. in Com., R.P. *July* 23, 784
Con. in Com. and Reported; Read 3°, and passed *July* 24, 898
[*cont.*

Public Libraries (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill—cont.
l. Read 1ª *July* 26, 998
Read 2ª *July* 27, 1115
Com. *July* 30, 1234
Reported, &c., *July* 31, 1367
Amendts. reported *Aug* 3 [28] 3
Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 6, 118
c. Lords Amendts. con., and agreed to *Aug* 8, 427
l. Royal Assent *Aug* 17
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 38]

Public Libraries (Scotland) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Dalziel; Read 1° *April* 17 [23] 748
Read 2° *April* 25, 1383
Com.; R.P. *April* 26, 1550
Con. in Com., R.P. *May* 2 [24] 199
Con. in Com.; Reported; Read 3°, and passed *May* 9, 748
l. Read 1ª *May* 10, 750
Read 2ª *June* 18 [25] 1335
Com.; Reported, and Re-com. to Standing Com. *June* 21, 1618
Reported from Standing Com. *July* 3 [26] 779
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 5, 941
Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 20]

Public Petitions Committee (see under *Parliament*)

Public Record Office (see *Record Office*)

Public Service (see *Civil Service*)

Public Trustee and Executor Bill
c. Intro., Colonel H. Vincent; Read 1° *April* 11 [23] 171
[Dropped]

Public Trustee (Colonies)
Address for Return *Aug* 16 [28] 1356

Public Trustee (Foreign Countries)
Address for Return *Aug* 16 [28] 1356

Public Trustees and the Finance Bill
Q. Mr. Heneage; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 24 [24] 1189

Public Works Loans Bill
c. Intro., Sir J. T. Hibbert; Read 1° *May* 21 [24] 994
Read 2° *May* 28, 1502
Con. in Com.; Reported *May* 31 [25] 130
As amended, Con. *June* 4, 388
Read 3° *June* 5, 492
[*cont.*

Public Works Loans Bill—cont.
l. Read 1ª *June* 7, 547
Read 2ª *June* 12, 895
Com.; Debate adjourned *June* 14, 1053
Debate resumed; Read 3ª, and passed *June* 15, 1165
Royal Assent *June* 18
[57° Vic. c. 11]

Public Works Loan Commission
Vote for, *Aug* 17 [28] 1482

Public Works Loans (No. 3) Act, 1893
Copy pres. June 28 [26] 516

Publicans and Military Pensioners (see under *Licensing*)

Quarantine
Obs. Mr. G. Bowles, Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Mar* 29 [22] 955

Quarries Bill
l. Pres., Lord Sandhurst; Read 1ª *July* 3 [26] 780
Read 2ª *July* 9, 1180
Com.; Reported, &c. *July* 12, 1446
Reported from the Standing Com. *July* 17 [27] 157
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 23, 655
c. Read 1° *July* 31, 1493
Read 2° *Aug* 9 [28] 547
Con. in Com., and Reported *Aug* 13, 885
As amended, Con.; Read 3°, and passed *Aug* 14, 1082
l. Commons Amendts. con., and agreed to *Aug* 17, 1377
Royal Assent *Aug* 25
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 42]

Quarries, Inspection of
Q. Mr. C. Williams; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 26 [26] 234; Qs. Mr. B. Roberts; As. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 10 [28] 563; *Aug* 16, 1239
Mr. Williams, &c., Amendt., and Debate in Com. of *Supply*, *Aug* 17 [28] 1455, &c.

Quarter Sessions (Midsummer) Bill
l. Pres., Lord Herschell; Read 1ª *Mar* 13 [22] 137
Read 2ª *Mar* 15, 299
Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *April* 12 [23] 173
now

Quarter Sessions Bill
l. Read 3ª; Amendts. made; Bill passed *April* 16 [23] 454
c. Read 1° *April* 16, 591
Read 2° *April* 24, 1325
[*cont.*

Quarter Sessions Bill—cont.
Com.; R.P. *April* 26, 1550; *April* 30, 1781
Con. in Com., and Reported *May* 1 [24] 139
Con.; Read 3°, and passed *May* 2, 200
l. Returned from the Commons with Amendts. *May* 4, 334
Commons Amendts. con., and agreed to, with Amendts. *May* 7, 458
Returned from the Commons with Lords Amendts. to Commons Amendts. agreed to *May* 1, 577
Royal Assent *June* 1
[57° Vic. c. 6]

Queen Anne's Bounty
Copy pres. April 18 [23] 811
Sales under the Glebe Lands Act, Q. Sir J. Savory; A. Mr. Gardner *June* 29 [26] 564

Queen's Birthday
Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 1 [24] 48
Celebrations, Q. Mr. Tomlinson; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *June* 5 [25] 404
Honours—"*Order of the Bath*," *&c.*—Q. Admiral Field; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 4 [25] 313; Qs. Admiral Field, Mr. Labouchere; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 7, 574; Q. Admiral Field; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 14, 1083
Post Office Holidays, Q. Sir J. Leng; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 9 [22] 1587

QUILTER, Mr. W. C., *Suffolk, Sudbury*
Finance Bill, Com. [26] 335, 337, 340, 349; Con., 1350; [27] 39
Irish Prison-Made Mats [27] 26
Scotch Prisons—Mat-Making [26] 1489

RABAT
British Representation at, Q. Mr. Gourley; A. Sir E. Grey *July* 30 [27] 1245

Rabies
Irish Questions (see under IRELAND)
Muzzling for Canine Rabies, Q. and Obs. Earl of Rosse, Lord Ribblesdale *July* 23 [27] 647
Ormskirk Board of Guardians, Q. Mr. W. M'Laren; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 22 [26] 12

Railway and Canal Traffic Act
Conciliation Clause, Qs. Mr. Dodd, Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen; As. Mr. Bryce *July* 13 [26] 1561

Railway and Canal Traffic Act (1888) Amendment Act

c. Intro., Sir J. Whitehead; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 454
[Dropped]

Railway and Canal Traffic Amendment (Ireland) Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Ross; Read 1° *June* 1 [25] 272
[Dropped]

Railway and Canal Traffic Bill

c. Motion for Leave (Mr. Mundella); Read 1° *April* 12 [23] 224
2R. deferred *April* 23, 1202; *June* 20 [25] 1607
Read 2° *June* 22 [26] 100
Com. deferred *Aug* 2 [27] 1660
Con. in Com.; R.P. *Aug* 10 [28] 636
Con. in Com., and Reported *Aug* 13, 785
Read 3°, and passed *Aug* 15, 1151
l. Read 1ª *Aug* 16, 1215
Read 2ª *Aug* 17, 1376
Com.; Reported, &c.; Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 20 [29] 10
c. Lords Amendts. con., and agreed to *Aug* 22, 343
Royal Assent *Aug* 25
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 54]

Railway and Canal Traffic Bill

Q. Mr. Tomlinson; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 3 [24] 241; Qs. Sir J. Whitehead, Mr. A. C. Morton; As. Mr. Burt *May* 25, 1273; Qs. Sir J. Whitehead, Mr. Channing; As. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 29, 1535
Statement (Sir J. Whitehead) *May* 25 [24] 1285; Q. Sir J. Whitehead; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 6 [26] 1080; Qs. Mr. Dodd, Sir M. H. Beach, Sir A. Rollit: As. Mr. Bryce *July* 26 [27] 1019; Qs. Mr. Tomlinson; As. Sir W. Harcourt, Mr. Bryce *Aug* 2, 1585

Railway Commission Bill

c. Intro., Sir A. Rollit; Read 1° *April* 23 [23] 1204

Railway Rates and Charges Provisional Order (Easingwold Railway, &c.) Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Burt; Read 1° *May* 1 [24] 139
Read 2° *May* 25, 1257
Read 3°, and passed *June* 6 [25] 544
l. Read 1ª *June* 7, 547
Read 2ª *June* 14, 1057
Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *June* 19, 1448
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 21, 1618
Royal Assent *July* 3
[57° & 58° Vic. c. xlviii]

Railways

Accidents
- *Board of Trade Inquiries—Railway Men as Inspectors*, Q. Mr. Channing; A. Mr. Burt *May* 28 [24] 1419
- *Board of Trade Returns*, Q. Mr. J. E. Ellis; A. Mr. Mundella *Mar* 20 [22] 691; Qs. Mr. Channing; As. Mr. Bryce *April* 3 [22] 1249; *June* 4 [25] 297; *July* 16 [27] 17
- *Copy pres. July* 9 [26] 1280
- *Irchester Fatality*, Q. Mr. J. Stuart; A. Mr. Mundella *Mar* 29 [22] 902
- *Platelayers*, Qs. Mr. J. Burns; As. Mr. Mundella *April* 17 [23] 629; Q. Mr. Channing; A. Mr. Burt *April* 26, 1441
- *Theobald, Mr., M.P., Fatal Accident to*, Q. Colonel Lockwood; A. Mr. Mundella *Mar* 13 [22] 148
- *Uffington Station*, Q. Mr. Wroughton; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 10 [26] 1304

Advertisements in Stations, Qs. Mr. Jacks' Mr. Macdona; As. Mr. Bryce *June* 14 [25] 1206

Board of Trade and Railway Companies—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 18 [28] 1510, &c.

Board of Trade Department Officials, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 26 [26] 244

Canal Rates, Qs. Sir J. Whitehead; As. Mr. Mundella *April* 17 [23] 635

Carriers' Act—Contracting Out of Liability, Qs. Mr. Field, Mr. Dodd; As. Mr. Mundella *April* 13 [23] 339; Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 6 [28] 135

Cattle Traffic (see under title IRELAND—*Cattle*)

"*Cobb* v. *The Great Western Company*," Q. Sir S. King; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 12 [25] 907

County Councils and Light Railways, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 12 [26] 1488

Ely Valley, Q. Mr. A. Williams; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 8 [25] 671

Fares
- *London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway*, Qs. Mr. Benn; As. Mr. Mundella *April* 3 [22] 1249; *April* 19 [23] 851
- *Overcharges—Chatham and Dover Railway*, Q. Mr. J. Stuart; A. Mr. Mundella *Mar* 22 [22] 860

Irish Questions (see under title IRELAND)

Labour, Hours of
- *Copy pres. Aug* 22 [29] 344
- *Cornwall*, Q. Mr. Burnie; A. Mr. Mundella *May* 7 [24] 483
- *Great Eastern Railway*, Q. Mr. A. Grove; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 17 [27] 170; Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 28 [26] 407
- *Signalmen*, Qs. Mr. Dodd; As. Mr. Bryce *June* 21 [25] 1619; *Aug* 9 [28] 439; Qs. Mr. Channing; As. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 9, 459, 427

Letter Boxes on Trains, Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 27 [27] 1127

Railways—cont.

Level Crossings, Q. Marquess of Granby; A. Mr. Burt *May* 22 [24] 997; Qs. Mr. Conybeare, Mr. Channing; As. Mr. Bryce *May* 31 [25] 27

London, Chatham, and Dover — Alleged Nuisance in Tarn Street, Q. Captain Norton; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 2 [26] 679

Market Traffic—Great Eastern Railway, Qs. Mr. H. Hoare, Mr. A. C. Morton; As. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 23 [29] 354

Militiamen's Passes, Q. Mr. Dixon; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 12 [26] 1466

Preferences to Traders, Q. Mr. Jacks; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 17 [27] 169

Rates, Q. Sir J. Whitehead; A. Mr. Mundella *Mar* 13 [22] 138; Qs. Mr. Richardson, Sir J. Whitehead; As. Mr. Mundella *April* 5, 1445; Q. Mr. Wrightson; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 10 [23] 20; Qs. Mr. Dalziel, Mr. J. E. Ellis; As. Mr. Bryce *June* 12 [25] 907; Q. Mr. Wrightson; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 7 [28] 240
(Refer also under title *Railway and Canal Traffic Bill*)

Return pres. July 24 [27] 896

Scotch Questions (see under title SCOTLAND)

Sight Tests for Servants, Q. Dr. Macgregor; A. Mr. Bryce *May* 31 [25] 20

Underground, Metropolitan

Foul Air, Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Mr. Burt *May* 24 [24] 1534; *June* 4 [25] 304; *June* 12, 899; Qs. Mr. Weir, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; As. Mr. Bryce *June* 22 [26] 22; Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Mr. Bryce *June* 28, 429; *July* 2, 689

Platforms, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 5 [25] 400

Volunteers — Sergeant Instructors and Railway Fares, Q. Sir A. Acland-Hood; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Mar* 19 [22] 566

Workmen's Tickets, Qs. Mr. Dodd, Mr. Darling; As. Mr. Mundella *May* 7 [24] 486; Q. Mr. Dodd; A. Mr. Burt *May* 28, 1388; Q. Mr. Dodd; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 5 [25] 427; Qs. Mr. Dodd; As. Mr. Bryce *July* 2 [26] 688; *Aug* 9 [28] 439
References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 18 [28] 1530, &c.; *Aug* 23 [29] 396

Workmen's Trains, Overcrowding, Q. Mr. Saunders; A. Mr. Mundella *May* 10 [24] 793

Workwomen's Trains for the Metropolis, Q. Mr. A. C. Morton; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 4 [25] 289

Ramsgate Lifeboat

Q. Mr. E. H. Bayley; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 8 [25] 682

RANDELL, Mr. D., *Glamorgan, Gower*

Trade Disputes in Wales and the Police [26] 1477; [27] 177, 380; [28] 21

RANKIN, Mr. J., *Herefordshire, Leominster*

Chairmen of District Councils as Justices of the Peace [26] 1475; [28] 5

Corn Returns [26] 453

Finance Bill, Com. [26] 606

Maltese Marriage Laws [23] 1435

New Parish Boundaries [23] 1099

Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, 2R. [24] 729

RASCH, Major F. C., *Essex, S.E.*

Agricultural Depression, Res. [23] 342

Agricultural Depression in Essex [24] 1185, 1274; Res. [25] 827, 828

Aldershot Review—Reserve Soldiers [24] 1394; [25] 14

Anthrax in South Essex [24] 775

Army (Annual) Bill, Com. [23] 571

Army Estimates
  Militia [26] 834
  Warlike and other Stores—Contracts [26] 1001
  Yeomanry [26] 868, 883

Brentwood School—Ill-Treatment of Children [25] 915; [26] 11, 796; [27] 1121

Business of the House, Res. [22] 1640

Derelict Land in Essex, Map of [24] 1277

Discharged and Reserve Soldiers, Employment for [22] 507; [23] 1098; [24] 21; [26] 1140, 1142; [27] 29; [28] 17

East London Water Bill, 2R. [22] 1415

Essex Fisheries and American Cattle Ships [26] 237

Essex Fishing Grounds—Removing Cultch, &c. [22] 1233; [24] 1181

Essex Regiment [25] 1208

Finance Bill, Com. [25] 1400; [26] 313, 481; Com. [27] 58

Fishery Committees—Fishermen's Expenses [26] 238

Foreign Shell Fish Bill, Intro. [22] 458

Grigsby, Dr. [22] 1247

Gun Practice off the Nore [25] 574

Gun Practice over Maplin Sands [23] 836

Hong Kong Plague [26] 795

Irish Mail Boats, Soldiers on [23] 1436; [24] 236

Irish Tenants' Loans [28] 455

Navy Estimates
  Dockyard Labour and Wages, Res. [22] 659
  Essex Fishing Ground [22] 783

Officers' Reserve Pay [25] 1209

Reservists' Pay as Telegraphists [25] 1625

Sea Fisheries (Shell Fish) Bill, 2R. [25] 1433, 1434, 1723; [26] 318, 511
  Blocking [25] 1642

Supply
  County Courts [22] 375
  Dr. Grigsby [27] 1490
  House of Commons Kitchen Committee [24] 1296
  House of Commons Offices, Commission on [22] 356

[*cont.*

RASCH, Major F. C.—*cont.*
Thames Conservancy Bill, Instr. to Com. [24] 1380, 1385 ; Con. [26] 1462
Trade and Agriculture, Depression of—Amendt. to Address in Answer to Queen's Speech [22] 75
Uniforms Bill, 2R. [24] 706
Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 1182

Rates, Non-Payment of—Imprisonment for
Q. Mr. Hopwood ; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 23 [27] 664

RATHBONE, Mr. W., *Carnarvonshire, Arfon*
Business of the House—Procedure on the Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Arbitration Bill, Res. [27] 1437
Charity Commission (Parliamentary Control), Res. [22] 1027
Finance Bill, Com. [25] 326, 951
Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, Com. [28] 811

Rating of Machinery Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Coddington ; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 451
2R. ; Debate adjourned *May* 9 [24] 733
[Dropped]

REAY, LORD (Under Secretary of State for India)
India
Behar Cadastral Survey [23] 443
Cotton Duties [27] 507, 512, 513
Legislative Councils—Address for Return [23] 1385
Mints, Closing of [26] 547, 550
Salt Laws [23] 318
"Sanchi Tope," General Maisey's Book on [23] 430
Indian Railway Companies Bill, 2R. [25] 669

Record Office
Vote for, *Aug* 17 [28] 1482
Welsh Documents—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 23 [29] 406, &c.

Records (City of Birmingham)
Copy pres. April 16 [23] 592

Red Sea Slave Trade
Q. Mr. J. A. Pease ; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 3 [24] 210

REDMOND, Mr. J. E., *Waterford*
Business of the House, Res. [22] 1611 ; [25] 56, 57
Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act (1887) Repeal Bill [23] 859 ; 2R., 810
[*cont.*

REDMOND, Mr. J. E.—*cont.*
Ireland
Arran Islands, Destitution in [24] 791
Financial Relations [22] 155
Gun Licences [27] 556
Lunacy [24] 1179
Small Holdings, Res. [23] 415, 416, 424, 425
Lunacy in Scotland [24] 460
Queen's Speech, Reply to
Administration of the Law in Ireland [22] 290, 294
Dynamite Prisoners [22] 227
Home Rule [22] 180
Supply—Administration of Ireland [25] 1585, 1589, 1590
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Com. [27] 1144, 1513, 1593 ; Con. [28] 176

REDMOND, Mr. W. H. K., *Clare, E.*
Business of the House [27] 286, 287, 289
Colonies and the Death Duties [25] 589
Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act (1887) Repeal Bill, 2R. [23] 752, 759, 763, 766, 776, 804
Daly, John, Release of [24] 1283
Finance Bill, Com. [26] 755, 757
Ireland
Bodyke Evictions—Police Assistance [27] 1392
Canteen Supplies [24] 1153
Cattle Outrages, &c. [25] 308
Clare County Mail Cart Service [28] 250
Clare Magistracy—Mr. Wakely [27] 1393
Colonel O'Callaghan [28] 128
De Freyne Estate [27] 561
Killuran School House [28] 19
Miltown Malbay Postal Arrangements [25] 900
National League Meetings—Prohibition of at Kilfenora [24] 1526
Police—Right of Search [27] 808
Small Holdings, Res. [23] 412, 413, 420, 421, 423, 424
Tuam Union Elections [25] 404
Irish Education Bill, Intro. [24] 1200
New South Wales—Dibbs Ministry [27] 1407
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [23] 907 ; 2R. [27] 593, 748 ; Com., 1524, 1531, 1549, 1590, 1592, 1594

REED, Sir E. J., *Cardiff*
Cardiff Corporation Bill, Con. [26] 663, 664, 670, 672
Dockyard Labour and Wages, Res. [22] 651
Navy Estimates—Shipbuilding, Repairs, &c. [23] 70, 83, 84, 87, 279
"Victoria" Disaster [22] 715, 716, 718, 719, 721, 723

Reformatory and Industrial Schools
Vote for, and Debate on *Aug* 22 [29] 341

Registrar General
Report for 1892, Q. Mr. Courtney; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 8 [24] 598
Vote for, and Debate on *Aug* 20 [29] 32, &c.; *Aug* 22, 319, &c.

Registration (see under *Local Government Board*)

Registration of Electors Bill (see *Parochial Electors* (*Registration Acceleration*) *Bill*)

REID, Sir R. T. (Solicitor General), *Dumfries, &c.*
Balfour Companies [24] 1187; [25] 428
[25] Finance Bill, Com., *cl.* 1, 121, 342; *cl.* 2, 383, 384, 443, 444, 446, 448, 455, 456, 459, 462, 465, 466, 467, 469, 470, 471, 472. 473, 475, 477, 479, 481, 483, 485, 487, 491, 506, 507, 513, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 532, 533, 534, 537, 618, 619, 622, 623, 624, 625, 632; *cl.* 3, 637, 652, 714, 718, 723, 727, 728, 732, 733, 734; *cl.* 4, 747, 756, 757, 854, 861, 865, 866, 867, 871; *cl.* 5, 881, 929, 930, 933, 935, 936, 938, 942, 944, 946, 953, 955, 962, 968, 970, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 978, 982, 983, 984, 985, 1102, 1104, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1112, 1115, 1117, 1126, 1134, 1154, 1155; *cl.* 6, 1232, 1237, 1242, 1249, 1265, 1275, 1286, 1289, 1292, 1294, 1295, 1299, 1311, 1313, 1314, 1378, 1381; *cl.* 7, 1397, 1398, 1399, 1404, 1406, 1407, 1409, 1413, 1416, 1419, 1420, 1423, 1424, 1425, 1426, 1481, 1482, 1485, 1486, 1487, 1499, 1501, 1503, 1504, 1505, 1507, 1508, 1509, 1514; *cl.* 9, 1517, 1520, 1522, 1523, 1524, 1525, 1527, 1528, 1530, 1531, 1534, 1535, 1538, 1539, 1540, 1541, 1542; *cl.* 10, 1676, 1677, 1678; *cl.* 11, 1681, 1682, 1684, 1685; *cl.* 12, 1687; *cl.* 13, 1688, 1691, 1695,
[26] *cl.* 15, 57, 59, 60, 61, 62; *cl.* 17, 164, 165, 166, 167, 170, 171, 173, 174, 175, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 187, 188, 191; *cl.* 18, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 200, 253; *New cls.*, 621, 625, 626, 627, 636, 637, 641, 645, 739, 740, 741; Con., 1200, 1218, 1253, 1254, 1360, 1389, 1395, 1403, 1412. 1414, 1415, 1417, 1419, 1420, 1422, 1424, 1425, 1426, 1427, 1428, 1429, 1430, 1432, 1433, 1491, 1493, 1496, 1504, 1508, 1509, 1511, 1517, 1518, 1519, 1521, 1526, 1531, 1533, 1535, 1540, 1545, 1546, 1547, 1578, 1581, 1584, 1588, 1590, 1591, 1592, 1593, 1606, 1610, 1611, 1612, 1613, 1623, 1624, 1625, 1630, 1631, 1644, 1645, 1646, 1647, 1648, 1649, 1650, 1651, 1653
[27] 56, 66, 79, 81, 86, 88, 91, 93, 96, 97, 101
Foreign Goods and The Merchandise Marks Act [25] 34
Judges and the Derby Day [25] 429, 691
Limitation of Actions Bill, 2R. [25] 1430
Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Com. [24] 1086, 1090, 1092, 1103, 1110
Prize Courts Bill, 2R. [27] 1106
Queen's Speech, Reply to [22] 74
Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [22] 1165

[*cont.*

REID, Sir R. T.—*cont.*
Supreme Court of Judicature (Procedure) Bill, 2R. [25] 387, 492; Com., 887
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [27] 723, 725; Com., *cl.* 1, 1032, 1035, 1070, 1085, 1086, 1088, 1153, 1159, 1163, 1174, 1185, 1186, 1199, 1533, 1535; *cl.* 3, 1541, 1543, 1550; *cl.* 4, 1552; *cl.* 7, 1599; *New cl.*, 1600, 1601, 1602; Con. [28] 150, 151, 155, 157, 165, 167, 169, 170, 172, 176, 179; 3R. 269

Religious Instruction in Board Schools (see under *Education*)

Religious Intolerance in Hyde Park
Q. Mr. W. Johnston; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 30 [27] 1267

Religious Opinions Prosecutions Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Storey; Read 1° *April* 20 [23] 1068
[Dropped]

Religious Tests (Ireland) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. P. A. M'Hugh; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 455
Order for 2R. negatived *April* 16, 588
2R. deferred *April* 23 [23] 1203; *April* 24 1326
[Dropped]

RENSHAW, Mr. C. B., *Renfrew, W.*
County Councils Association (Scotland) Expenses Bill, Res. [22] 786
Finance Bill, Com. [26] 485, 486, 489, 612
Income Tax, Over-paid [26] 1310
Local Government (Scotland) Bill [27] 1565; Motion for Leave [23] 1636; 2R. [24] 1047, 1048; Instr. to Com., 1079; Con. [28] 490, 491, 493, 499, 502, 505, 508, 520, 524, 529, 572, 585, 593. 601, 608, 613, 614, 615, 622, 626; 3R., 636
London County Council (General Powers) Bill, Con. [24] 698
Lord Rosebery's Visit to Edinburgh [22] 347
Public Libraries (Scotland) Bill, Com. [24] 199
Scotch Education Code, Res. [24] 901, 902
Scotch Public Works Expenditure [22] 303
Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [23] 1598
Steam Trawlers (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [24] 747
Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 1185, 1190

RENTOUL, Mr. J. A., *Down, E.*
Army Estimates—Militia—Colonel Stewart [26] 836, 840, 846, 847
Army Preliminary Examinations [25] 1643
Belfast and County Down Railway—Level Crossings [28] 769
Colonel Stewart's Grievance [25] 901

[*cont.*

RENTOUL, Mr. J. A.—*cont.*
Indian Staff College [26] 1308
Mitchell, Colonel Edward [26] 1308
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [27] 603

Representative Peers for Scotland and Ireland (see under *Parliament—Lords*)

Retired Soldiers and Sailors—Select Com. (see under *Army*)

Return Tickets Bill
c. Intro., Mr. A. C. Morton; Read 1° *Mar* 20 [22] 786
[Dropped]

Returning Officers (see under titles *Parliamentary Elections* and *Local Government Board*)

Revolvers and Pistols
Res., Marquess of Carmarthen *Mar* 30 [22] 1036

Rewards for the Arrest of Murderers
Q. General Goldsworthy; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 19 [25] 1464

Rhyl Poor Relief Administration
Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 26 [23] 1407

Rhys-Davids, Professor—Civil List Pension
Qs. Mr. Bartley, Mr. Paul, Mr. Byles; As. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 12 [26] 1486

RIBBLESDALE, Lord
Licensing Law Amendment Bill, 2R. [26] 928
Marking of Foreign and Colonial Produce—Select Com. [23] 449
Merchandise Marks (Prosecutions) Bill, 2R. [26] 559
Muzzling for Canine Rabies [27] 650
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [28] 717, 721

Rich, Colonel (see under *Army—Pensions*)

RICHARDSON, Mr. J., *Durham, S.E.*
Merchant Shipping Bill, Re-com. [28] 364
Railway Rates and Charges [22] 1445
Supply—Voluntary Schools, &c. [22] 814

Richmond Bridge
Paper laid upon the Table of the House May 29 [24] 1636

Richmond Park (see under *Parks*)

Rifles and Rifle Ranges (see under *Army*)

RIGBY, SIR J. (Attorney General), *Forfar*
Balfour Companies [26] 1310, 1486
Bankruptcy Proceedings in Sussex—Case of Mr. Warren [26] 1485
Behring Sea Arbitration Regulations [24] 1422
Copyhold (Consolidation) Bill, Com. [28] 883, 884
Debenture Bonds, Registration of [24] 237
Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 835, 836; Com., *cl.* 6 [25] 1358, 1359, 1361, 1365, 1367, 1368, 1374, 1376, 1383, 1391; *cl.* 7, 1488, 1490, 1500; *cl.* 10, 1651, 1652, 1656, 1657, 1658, 1659, 1660, 1661, 1662, 1665, 1668, 1671, 1672; *cl.* 17 [26] 150, 151, 152, 154, 156, 157, 158, 161, 162, 163; *cl.* 18, 250, 253; *New cls.*, 622, 629, 630, 631, 632, 643, 644, 650, 751; Con., 1202, 1208, 1209, 1213, 1214, 1324, 1490, 1501, 1511, 1513, 1514, 1515, 1525, 1538, 1547, 1588, 1601, 1618, 1628, 1629, 1636, 1640, 1645; Con. [27] 55, 58, 71, 102
Foreign Goods (Mark of Origin) Bill, 2R. [24] 196
Government Newspaper Publications [27] 805
Holmfirth County Court [26] 1309
Indian Civil Service Pensions and the Finance Bill [25] 1644
Judges at Race Meetings [24] 795
London Police Magistrates—Case of Elizabeth Saunders [27] 1143
Mitchell, Colonel E., Case of [27] 554
Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Com. [28] 649, 879
Quarter Sessions Bill, 2R. [23] 1325; Com., 1781, 1782
Statute Law Revision Bill, Com. [28] 1080 1351, 1352; Con., 1483, 1484, 1485, 1486 1487
Supply—Jabez Balfour [29] 81, 83
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Com. [27] 1156, 1166, 1536
Wales—Mining Rights—Land Grants to Sir W. Herbert [26] 134, 242, 957
Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 520, 521, 1122
Wills in Welsh Language [27] 1409

RIPON, MARQUESS of (Secretary of State for the Colonies)
Business of the House—Standing Order [24] 39, 1505
Colonial Officers (Leave of Absence) Bill, Intro. [23] 608; 2R., 962, 963
[*cont.*

Ripon, Marquess of—*cont.*
  Dominica—Sir R. Hamilton's Report, Motion for an Address [22] 301
  Industrial and Provident Societies Act, 1893, Amendment Bill, 3R. [24] 1506
  Malta Harbour, Unsanitary Condition of [26] 1176
  New Zealand Legislature [27] 1236
  Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, Com. [26] 558
  Swaziland Convention [26] 517

River Eye, Pollution of
  Q. Marquess of Granby ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 7 [28] 254

River Suck Drainage Bill
c. As amended, Con.; Read 3° *June* 27 [26] 321

Rivers Pollution Prevention Bill
c. Intro., Sir F. S. Powell ; Read 1° *Mar* 20 [22] 785
  2R. deferred *July* 18 [27] 331
  Withdrawn *Aug* 13 [28] 888

Rivers Pollution Prevention Bill and the Leicester County Council
  Petition pres., Sir W. Whitehead *June* 27 [26] 322

Road Subvention Abolition (Scotland) Bill
c. Intro., Sir C. Cameron ; Read 1° *Mar* 21 [22] 853
[Dropped]

Roberts, Mr. J. B., *Carnarvonshire, Eifion*
  Quarries, Inspectors of [28] 563, 1239, 1455, 1458
  Wills in Welsh Language [27] 1408

Roberts, Mr. J. H., *Denbighshire, W.*
  Denbighshire Intermediate Education Scheme [27] 1136
  Eglwyseg Rural Postman [28] 1253
  Established Church (Wales) Bill, Motion for Leave [23] 1728, 1730
  Finance Bill, Com. ; *New cls.* [26] 748, 749
  Sunday Closing (Wales) Act (1881) Amendment Bill, Intro. [23] 171
  Swine Fever in Denbighshire [26] 452
  Swine, Restrictions on the Sale of [26] 1080

Roberts of Kandahar, Lord
  Indian Cotton Duties [27] 510

ROBERTSON, Mr. E. (Civil Lord of the Admiralty), *Dundee*
  Accountant General's Department [28] 265
  Allotments, Payment of [23] 1216
  Apprentices' Instruction [22] 1450
  Brazilian Civil War—Loss of British Officers [23] 222
  Bullinaria, H., Case of [29] 158
  Catholic Chaplains [25] 1210
  Channel Fleet—Visit to Ireland [28] 29
  Chatham Discharges [25] 1474
  Classification [22] 1251
  Clerical Department — Second Division Clerks [24] 1399
  Coastguard in Cornwall [26] 1560
  Coopers' Wages, &c.—Royal Victoria Yard, Deptford [27] 1267 ; [28] 266, 475, 989
  Dockyard Tugs, Masters of [28] 983
  Eight Hours Day [24] 376 ; [25] 573, 1462
  Employés and Civic Offices [25] 1220 ; [26] 1569
  Engineers' Examinations [22] 1443 ; [27] 671
  Essex Fishing Ground [22] 783
  Food Allowances [24] 228
  Gibraltar New Dock [23] 219
  Haulbowline Dockyard [24] 213, 1525 [25] 558, 923
  Labour and Wages [22] 321, 624, 625 ; [26] 956 ; [27] 1264 ; [28] 22
  Medway Dredging [26] 1481
  Navy Estimates
    Dockyard Chaplains [23] 273
    Gibraltar Dock [23] 300, 301, 302
    Keyham Dock [23] 302, 303
    Pembroke Dock [23] 302
    Pensions [29] 317
    Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, &c.—Personnel [23] 273
    Works, Buildings, and Repairs [23] 298, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304
  Open Spaces at Deptford [26] 1475
  Ordnance Stores at Malta and Gibraltar [24] 1527
  Pensions
    Brothers Parrett [24] 220 ; [25] 679
    Dockyard [22] 1111
    Saxon, Case of [23] 1075
    Stoppages—Case of Griffiths [25] 41
  Sheerness Gunnery Establishment, Money Voted for [24] 1151
  Stonehouse Ordnance Employés [27] 1014
  Supply—Peterhead Harbour [28] 1396
  "Tamar" Seamen, Fatality to [25] 1208

Robinson, Mr. B., *Dudley*
  Cab Horses, Treatment of [25] 1089
  Horses, Cruelty to—Case of W. Meet [23] 16

Robinson, Sir T., *Gloucester*
  Great Western and Midland Railway Companies Bill, 2R. [27] 543

ROBY, Mr. H. J., *Lancashire, S.E., Eccles*
  Business of the House, Res. [25] 72, 74
  Convict Kelsall [26] 240
  Finance Bill, Com. [24] 1467, 1468
  Foreign Goods (Mark of Origin) Bill, 2R. [24] 195
  Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, Intro. [23] 1685; [22] 450; 2R. [23] 1329, 1330, 1331; Com. [28] 813, 814, 831, 832, 844, 1010, 1047
  Re-directed Postal Matter [25] 23
  Supply
    Kitchen Committee [24] 1293
    Ordnance Survey [24] 987

ROCHE, Mr. J., *Galway, E.*
  Clanricarde Agent [27] 1388, 1390
  Clanricarde Estate [27] 1253
  Denominational Teaching in Elementary Schools [26] 1194
  Galway, Extra Police in, &c. [23] 1093, 1578, 1671
  Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Com. [27] 1523
  Tuam Guardianship Dispute [23] 830

Roehampton—Clarence Lanes
  Q. Mr. Thornton; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *April* 26 [23] 1427

ROLLIT, Sir A. K., *Islington, S.*
  Anglo-Portuguese Treaty [22] 695
  Army (Annual) Bill, Com. [23] 571
  Army Estimates
    Medical Department [26] 830
    Military Education [26] 1120
    Telegraphic Communication [26] 1111, 1112
    Volunteers [26] 887
  Balfour, Jabez, Extradition of [27] 553; [28] 479
  Behring Sea Award Bill [22] 1574
  Billingsgate Tolls [28] 1387
  Brazilian Civil War [22] 332
  Business of the House [22] 856; [28] 33, 1265
    Motion for Select Com. [22] 1256, 1259, 1263, 1269, 1270
  Charity Commission (Parliamentary Control), Res. [22] 1034
  Civil Service—Second Division Promotions, Res. [22] 930
  Coldbath Fields Money Order Office [27] 1121
  Commercial Treaties [27] 552, 1238
  Companies' Debentures Registration, &c., Bill, Intro. [25] 892
  Companies (Winding-up) Act [25] 571
  Conciliation Bills [27] 381
  Dublin Law Courts Press Accommodation [23] 459

[*cont.*

ROLLIT, Sir A. K.—*cont.*
  Equalisation of Rates Bill [26] 1312; Com. [28] 49, 381, 391, 392, 393
  Ex-Inspector Ruff [24] 1163
  Finance Bill, Com. [24] 1578, 1583; [25] 358, 605, 621, 626, 631, 1125, 1266, 1477, 1494; [26] 138, 143, 156; Con., 1277, 1323, 1583, 1594, 1610; [27] 34
  Franco-Congolese Agreement [28] 1251
  Grants to University Colleges [26] 957
  Great Western and Midland Railway Companies Bill [28] 480; 2R. [27] 541; 3R. [28] 369
  Gresham University Commission Report [22] 905; [24] 1003; [28] 474
  Inland Revenue Affidavit [26] 456
  Kingston-upon-Hull (Court of Record) Bill, Res. [22] 788
  Libel Bill, Intro. [22] 457
  Light Dues, Committee on [28] 561
  London Building Bye-Laws—County Council Bill [22] 1107
  Merchant Shipping — Undermanning [22] 1105
  Morocco—Sir W. Ridgeway's Mission [25] 575
  Ottawa Conference Report [27] 382
  Period of Qualification and Elections Bill, 2R. [24] 104
  Pilotage Bill, 2R. [25] 1725; [26] 1278
  Police and Sanitary Regulations Committee [22] 1239
  Railway and Canal Traffic Bill [27] 1019; 2R., 101; Con., 1660; [28] 636, 637, 643, 645
  Railway Commission Bill, Intro. [23] 1204
  Royal Academy Tenancy [24] 1169
  Sea Fisheries, Select Committee's Report [22] 870, 904; [26] 956
  Sheerness Gunnery Establishment, Money Voted for [24] 1152
  Siam, Affairs of [27] 552
  Small Holdings (Ireland), Res. [23] 418
  Solicitors' Examination Bill, Intro., 788; 2R. [22] 1686
  Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [26] 1171
  Supply
    Colonial Office—South African Telegrams [22] 362
    County Courts [22] 374
    Extension of Admiralty Buildings [22] 987
    House of Commons Offices, Commission on [22] 359
    London University, &c. [24] 958, 969, 972
    Metropolitan Police Courts [22] 997; [28] 1597
    Petitions to the House of Commons [22] 352
    Piers in Ireland [28] 1414
    Post Office Buildings [24] 944
    Printing Contracts—Trade Union Wages &c. [28] 1567
    Rating of Government Property [27] 1276, 1286; [28] 1400
    Spurn Head Works [28] 1394, 1395
    Uganda Vote [26] 959

[*cont.*

Rollit, Sir A. K.—*cont.*
- Telephone Companies and the Government [28] 1249
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Com. [27] 1589, 1597; *New cls.*, 1604
- Thames Conservancy Bill, Instr. to Com. [24] 1385, 1386; Com. [26] 1289, 1456
- Trade and Agriculture, Depression of—Amendt. to Address in Answer to Queen's Speech [22] 85
- Training Boys for Sea [27] 1000
- Truro and Newquay Junction Railway Bill, Con. [24] 1139
- Unification of London Report [27] 381
- "Victoria" Disaster [22] 740
- Von Roemer's Resumption of British Nationality Bill, 2R. [28] 1216
- Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 518, 519
- Zambesi—Collision with Portuguese Troops [22] 583

Rookwood, Lord
- Industrial Schools Bill, 2R. [26] 1179

Roscoe, Sir H. E., *Manchester, S.*
- Intoxicating Liquors (Licences) Bill, Intro. [22] 456
- Mecca—Reported Cholera Outbreak [25] 286
- Waltham Abbey Powder Factory Explosions [24] 606

ROSEBERY, Earl of (First Lord of the Treasury and Lord President of the Council)
- Agrarian Crime in Ireland [23] 1567
- Aliens Bill, Pres. [26] 1054, 1056; 2R. [27] 117, 122, 126, 137, 139, 140
- Antique Casts at South Kensington Museum [23] 1574
- Beaumaris Scheme [22] 1565
- Betterment — Town Improvements, Select Com. [23] 447; Report [27] 348, 349, 352
- Boards of Conciliation Bill, 2R. [26] 387
- British Museum (Purchase of Land) Bill, 2R. [27] 1366
- Business of the House [22] 34, 137, 297; [28] 891
- Crown Lands Bill, 2R. [28] 653; Com., 892
- Education Code and Report [26] 1445
- Endowed Schools Act, 1869, and Amending Acts, &c.—Motion for Address [23] 604, 606; [25] 1443, 1445, 1447
- Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, 2R. [28] 1156, 1163; Com., 1369
- Finance Bill, 1R. [27] 353
- French Republic—Assassination of the President [26] 105, 205
- Inland Revenue Affidavits [28] 654
- Law of Inheritance Amendment Bill, 2R. [23] 1397, 1400

[*cont.*

Rosebery, Earl of—*cont.*
- Local Government Provisional Orders (No.12) Bill, Com. [26] 1046
- Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Com. [28] 1172, 1184, 1194; Report, 1364
- Luccombe and Stoke-Pero, School Accommodation at [23] 435, 438, 440, 442
- Pistols Bill, Com. [24] 8, 11, 12, 13; 3R. [26] 659
- Post Office Savings Banks—Advertising [26] 1283, 1285
- Public Works Loans Bill, 2R. [25] 894, 895; Com., 1054, 1055, 1056, 1165
- Queen's Speech, Address in Answer to [22] 25
- Scotch Representative Peers [25] 1336
- Stranorlar and Glenties Railway [25] 787
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [28] 745, 967, 969, 972, 973, 978
- Tithe Rentcharges (Ireland), Motion for Return [26] 777, 778
- Uganda [23] 180, 181; Motion for Papers [25] 152, 155, 156, 157
- Whitsuntide Recess [24] 333
- York, Duke and Duchess of—Birth of a Son, Motion for Address [26] 105, 373

Rosebery, Earl of—Peers at Elections—Edinburgh Speech
- Qs. Mr. Renshaw, Sir J. Gorst, Mr. Dalziel; As. Sir W. Harcourt *Mar* 15 [22] 347
- Res. (Lord R. Churchill) *Mar* 19 [22] 388

Ross, Mr. J., *Londonderry*
- Atlantic Steamship Routes [25] 309
- Ireland
  - Bankruptcy Courts in the North-West of Ireland [24] 1159
  - Belfast Ship's Carpenter, Manslaughter by [23] 7
  - Channel Fleet [25] 421; [28] 29
  - Crown and Sessional Crown Solicitors [25] 164
  - Dillon's, Mr. J., Speech at Ballybrood [24] 1167
  - Drainage Loans [27] 1564
  - Dublin Main Drainage Scheme [28] 448, 761, 1241
  - Dublin Postal Appointments [24] 1160
  - Gweedore—Attack on the Police [25] 801
  - Labourers' Cottages [25] 309
  - Land-Grabbing Denunciations [24] 1265; [25] 553
  - Light Railways [29] 173
  - Londonderry Barracks [23] 184; [27] 1561
  - Lough Erne Drainage [28] 475
  - Naas Local Government Inquiry [25] 163
  - Orange Disturbances in Antrim County [23] 198
  - Police Protection [28] 457
  - Poor Law Unions, Financial Position of [23] 188; [24] 1531
  - Presbyterian Children, Attack on at Armagh [28] 569

[*cont.*

ROSS, Mr. J.—*cont.*
  Ireland—*cont.*
    Railway Rates—Bacon and Pork [24] 1406
    Registration of Titles [28] 7
    Strabane Voting Lists [28] 1230
    Training Ships [24] 1264 ; [28] 1236
  Railway and Canal Traffic Amendment (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [25] 272
  Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill [28] 136 ; 3R., 310, 314

ROSSE, Earl of
  Muzzling for Canine Rabies [27] 647

ROTHSCHILD, Baron F. J. de, *Bucks, Aylesbury*
  Plate Duties [24] 607

Rotten Row (see under *Parks — Hyde Park*)

ROUMANIA
  Extradition Treaty, Copy pres. *May* 10 [24] 911
  Treaty Series, Copy pres. *May* 21 [24] 996

ROUND, Mr. J., *Essex, N.E., Harwich*
  Agricultural Depression in Essex [24] 1184 ; Res. [25] 839
  Beer Adulteration Bill, Intro. [22] 451
  Essex Fishing Grounds [22] 1003 ; [24] 809
  Finance Bill, Com. [25] 104 ; [26] 491
  Naval Training Ships [26] 1314
  Sea Fisheries (Shell Fish) Bill, 2R. [25] 1433
  Trade and Agriculture, Depression of—Amendt. to Address in Answer to Queen's Speech [22] 96

ROUNDELL, Mr. C. S., *York, W.R., Skipton*
  Secondary Schools — Assistant Masters [24] 592
  Thrift in Elementary Schools [22] 1508 ; [23] 334
  Universities Representation Abolition Bill, Intro. [23] 747
  Wandsworth and Clapham Union — Poor Relief under False Pretences [23] 333

ROWLANDS, Mr. J., *Finsbury, E.*
  Auxiliary Postmen—Christmas Duty [29] 19
  Barker & Company, Failure of [22] 1436
  Business of the House [22] 1521 ; Res., 1630
  Charity Commission (Parliamentary Control), Res. [22] 1034
  Civil Service—Sick Leave [23] 979
  Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill [24] 609 ; 2R. [27] 882 ; Com. [28] 392
  Finsbury Estate [23] 627
  Free Education in St. Pancras [23] 1421
  General Post Office Buildings—Employment of Italians [25] 1350

[*cont.*

ROWLANDS, Mr. J.—*cont.*
  Government Departments, Gas for [22] 1592 ; [23] 828
  London County Council (General Powers) Bill, Con. [24] 696, 1513
  London Police Boots [25] 1640
  Obstructing the Police at Clerkenwell [29] 359
  Parliamentary Elections Expenses [24] 1329, 1348, 1360 ; [25] 34 ; [26] 1195 ; [27] 277
  Plate Duties [24] 608
  Police (Metropolis) Bill, Intro. [22] 460
  Submarine Telegraph Company's Employés [24] 463
  Supply—Rating of Government Property [27] 1279 ; [28] 1406
  Thames Conservancy Bill, Instr. to Com. [24] 1384, 1385 ; Con. [26] 1292
  Tower Bridge Return [27] 805 ; [29] 176
  Waltham Abbey Powder Factory Explosions [24] 605

ROWLANDS, Mr. W. B., *Cardiganshire*
  Liquor Traffic (Local Veto) (Wales) Bill, Intro. [22] 455

Royal Academy
  Q. Sir A. Rollit ; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *May* 24 [24] 1169
  References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *May* 21 [24] 961, &c.

Royal Birth (see under *York, Duke and Duchess of*)

Royal Commissions
  Cost of, Q. Mr. S. Leighton ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 7 [28] 239 ; Q. Mr. Naoroji ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 23 [29] 349
  Vote for, Con. in Com. *Aug* 20 [29] 102

Royal Liver Society
  Qs. Mr. Jacks ; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 14 [25] 1070 ; *July* 27 [27] 1119

Royal Niger Company (see under AFRICA)

Royal Parks (see *Parks*)

Rule of the Road at Sea (see under *Merchant Shipping*)

RUSSELL, MR. G. W. E. (Under Secretary of State for the Home Department), *North Beds.*
  Ambulance Instruction [23] 824
  Bryant and May's Strike—Trial of Amelia Gifford [24] 810
  Building Societies, Return [27] 1582
  Cab Drivers, Prosecutions against [23] 1419

[*cont.*

Russell, Mr. G. W. E.—*cont.*
- Cab Strike [24] 1178, 1180, 1309
- Chelsea Hospital for Women [29] 277
- Election Procedure—Returning Officers' Accounts [26] 234
- Ex-Inspector Ruff [24] 1163
- Factories, Sunday Labour in [24] 1158
- Factory Inspectors' Assistants [25] 578
- Guildhall—Sittings of the High Court [23] 826
- Hertfordshire Clerks of the Peace [23] 826
- Journeymen Bakers' Hours of Labour [29] 370
- Kirkconnell, Mr. J. F. [24] 760
- Law Officers' Compulsory Retirement [25] 10
- Magistrates, County—Returns [22] 1575
- Metropolitan Police Court Business [25] 10
- Metropolitan Police (Provisional Order) Bill Intro. [22] 1687
- Music and Dancing Licences (Middlesex) Bill, 2R. [22] 1377 ; Com. [24] 1124
- Nottingham Execution [23] 335
- Obstructing the Police at Clerkenwell [29] 358
- Parliamentary Voters in Scotland and Ireland—Return [23] 1688
- Police and Sanitary Regulations Committee [22] 1239
- Police Constable Whiting [23] 1422
- Police Evidence of Drunkenness before the Barnsley Magistrates [24] 1178
- Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, 2R. [22] 1378 ; Com. [24] 1089, 1115
- Prison Officers' Pensions [23] 1453
- Prisons—Lady Visitors for Female Prisoners [23] 332
- Shop Hours Act (1892) Amendment Bill, Com. [24] 1130
- Stage Carriage Licences in London [24] 777
- Supply
  - Home Office Clerks [28] 1439, 1440
  - Metalliferous Mines Inspector [28] 1436
  - Metropolitan Police Boots, &c. [28] 1595, 1596, 1597
  - Metropolitan Police Stations—Matrons [28] 1597
  - Prison Warders [28] 1597
  - Reformatory and Industrial Schools [29] 343
- Vivisection [25] 18

Russell, Mr. T. W., *Tyrone, S.*
- Business of the House [22] 1641 ; [23] 1455 ; [25] 69 ; [27] 287 ; [28] 1261, 1262
  - Procedure on the Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Arbitration Bill, Res. [27] 1445
- Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway Bill, 2R. [23] 113
- Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Bill, Motion for Leave [28] 482 ; 2R., 647, 648
- Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act (1887) Repeal Bill, 2R. [23] 774, 776, 779, 783
- Finance Bill, Com. [26] 366

Russell, Mr. T. W.—*cont.*
- Ireland
  - Achill Extension Railway [26] 236
  - Administration [25] 1356 ; [26] 1572
  - Agrarian Crime [25] 1084, 1472
  - Arran Islands [22] 1512
  - Belfast Workhouse, Lunatics in [22] 1431, 1432 ; [23] 1667
  - Boycotting at Kells [23] 1446
  - Cattle Outrages [25] 1089 ; [26] 1570
  - Cattle Seizures in County Kerry [25] 1074, 1463
  - Cavan Land Commission Appeals [24] 1154
  - Clogher Petty Sessional Bench [26] 126, 132
  - Clogher Sessions Clerkship [25] 1460
  - Cork Murder [23] 1446 ; [24] 208
  - Cork—Sunday Outdoor Preaching [22] 1517, 1590
  - Death Duties [24] 47 ; [25] 1645
  - Dysart Meeting Prohibited [25] 1075
  - Education Act [24] 1005
  - Evicted Tenants—Outdoor Relief [23] 189 ; [27] 19
  - Evictions, Number of, Since the Matthew Commission, &c. [27] 18, 175, 812 ; [28] 444
  - Gweedore District Disturbances [23] 19
  - High Sheriffs' Appointments [28] 472
  - Killarney Union—Financial Position of, &c. [22] 1570 ; [23] 1091 ; [24] 371 ; [25] 1624 ; [26] 122
  - Land Acts—Select Committee [22] 139, 1114, 1454, 1595 ; [23] 109, 308, 311, 312, 397, 398, 990 ; [24] 1131
  - Land-Grabbing Denunciations [25] 554, 794
  - Land Sub-Commissioner—Mr. Jeffcot [25] 580
  - Licence Transfers—Case of Mr. Hegarty [23] 849
  - Licensed Restaurant Facilities in Dublin [26] 433 ; [28] 139
  - Lighthouse Illuminants [24] 1190
  - Limerick Assizes [26] 1302
  - Limerick Fishery Laws [25] 1218
  - Listowel Union—Outdoor Relief, &c. [22] 1585 ; [25] 549 ; [26] 122
  - Lunacy and Whisky [24] 461
  - Malicious Burning in Galway [27] 1126
  - O'Hare, Mr.—Conviction for Drunkenness [25] 305
  - O'Kelly, Mr., Case of [24] 758, 998
  - Old Age Provident Pensions Bill, 2R. [22] 1371
  - Portumna — Resident Magistrates' Residences [28] 458
  - Publicans as Magistrates [25] 548, 673
  - Royal Hospital for Incurables, Dublin [25] 678 ; [26] 1074
  - School Teachers and the Education Act (1892) [26] 1430
  - Small Holdings, Res. [23] 403, 408
  - Special Police Protection [26] 1571
  - Teachers' Incomes [28] 760
  - Tralee Union Finances [24] 758
- Land Tenure (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [23] 132 140
- Liquor Traffic (Local Veto) Bill [25] 595
- Merchant Shipping Bill, Re-com. [28] 365, 366

RUSSELL, Mr. T. W.—*cont.*
  Poor Law Guardians (Ireland) (Women) Bill, Intro. [24] 1084 ; 2R. [25] 494
  Poor Law Union Officers (Ireland) Superannuation Bill, Intro. [24] 1084 ; 2R. [25] 990
  Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, 2R. [27] 1663 ; Com. [24] 1110, 1118
  Public Works Loans Bill, Com. [25] 131 ; 3R., 493
  Quarter Sessions Bill, Com. [23] 1782
  Queen's Speech, Reply to [22] 74
    Administration of the Law in Ireland [22] 274, 278, 290
  River Suck Drainage Bill, Con. [26] 321
  Supply
    Administration of Ireland [25] 1560, 1566, 1568, 1569, 1570, 1594, 1596, 1606, 1721
    Boycotting Mr. Bradley [25] 1717
    Civil List Pensions [27] 1297
    Green Street Court House, &c. [28] 1412
    House of Commons Offices [28] 1431
    House of Lords Officers [28] 1429, 1430, 1431
    Irish Veterinary College [25] 1749
    Lord Lieutenant's Household [25] 1547, 1548, 1549
    Railways in Ireland [28] 1420
    Supply—Post Office Buildings [24] 944
    Vote on Account [24] 814
  Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill [23] 1128 ; [24] 38 ; Intro. [23] 872, 893, 899 ; 2R., 1202 ; [27] 429, 631, 699, 716, 722, 723 ; Com., *cl.* 1, 1043, 1052, 1062, 1063, 1066, 1075, 1082, 1089, 1104, 1146, 1160, 1164, 1178, 1190 ; 3R. [28] 276, 288, 291, 293, 298
    Sub-Tenants [28] 248
  Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) [Guarantee and Expenses], Com. [27] 1105

RUSSELL, SIR C. (Attorney General), *Hackney, S.*
  Army (Annual) Bill—Courts Martial, Com. [23] 575
  Banstead Common [22] 1582
  Behring Sea Award Bill [22] 1575 ; Intro., 998 ; 2R., 1461 ; Com., 1676, 1677, 1680, 1681, 1682, 1683 ; Lords Amendts. [23] 741
  Civil Service Superannuation [22] 1516
  Declaration of Paris [22] 345
  Law Officers (Private Practice), Res. [22] 948, 949, 950
  London Streets and Buildings Bill, Select Com. [22] 1427
  Supply
    County Courts [22] 373, 375
    House of Commons Offices, Commission on [22] 355
    Law Officers of the Crown [22] 368
  Trustees Act (1893) [22] 152

RUSSELL, Sir G., *Berks, Wokingham*
  France—Assassination of President Carnot [26] 456
  Thames Conservancy Bill, Con. [26] 396, 1290

RUSSIA
  Behring Sea Sealers (see that title)
  British Herrings—Certificates of Origin, Q. Mr. Buchanan ; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 9 [22] 1576
  Danube—Kilia Mouth, Q. Mr. G. Bowles ; A. Sir E. Grey *Mar* 15 [22] 341

Russo-German Commercial Treaty
  Q. Mr. J. W. Lowther ; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 2 [22] 1097 ; Q. Mr. Holland ; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 6, 1514

RUTLAND, Duke of
  Cambridge Corporation Bill, 3R. [25] 1325
  Endowed Schools Act, 1869, and Amending Acts, &c., Motion for Address [25] 1445
  Finance Bill, 2R. [27] 974 ; Com. 1109
  Inland Revenue Affidavits [28] 654, 891
  London County Council (Tower Bridge Southern Approach) Bill, 3R. [28] 231, 232
  Merchandise Marks Act (1887) Amendment Bill, 2R. [25] 778

ST. ASAPH, Bishop of
  Endowed Schools Act, 1869, and Amending Acts, &c.—Motions for Addresses [23] 598, 601 ; [25] 1446, 1447

St. James's Park
  Qs. Mr. J. Burns, Mr. Pierpoint ; As. Mr. H. Gladstone *July* 19 [27] 360

St. Katherine's Hospital, Regent's Park
  Q. Mr. Cremer ; A. Mr. F. S. Stevenson *Aug* 2 [27] 1571

St. Lucia and the McKinley Tariff
  Q. Colonel H. Vincent ; A. Mr. Buxton *April* 26 [23] 1409

St. Paul's School (see under *Charity Commission*)

Sale of Food and Drugs Act (1875) &c. Amendment Bill
  c. Intro., Sir C. Cameron ; Read 1° *April* 4 [22] 1379
  Withdrawn *June* 13 [25] 1052

Sale of Goods Act, 1893
  Q. Mr. Darling ; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 20 [23] 983

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors Bill
  c. Intro., Mr. Courtney ; Read 1° *Mar* 21 [22] 153
  [Dropped]

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) Bill

c. Intro., Sir T. Lea; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 460

[Dropped]

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors on Sunday Bill

c. Intro., Mr. J. Stevenson; Read 1° *April* 24 [23] 1327

[Dropped]

Salisbury, Marquess of

Aliens Bill, Pres. [26] 1047, 1058, 1059; 2R. [27] 132, 135, 137, 139, 140, 146, 1479; [28] 889

Army (Annual) Bill, 1R. [23] 593

Behring Sea Award Bill, 2R. [23] 178

Betterment — Town Improvements, Select Com. Report [27] 340, 349

Business of the House [22] 34; [28] 119

East London Water Bill, Southwark and Vauxhall Water Bill, West London Middlesex Water Bill, 2R. [26] 524

Endowed Schools Act, 1869, and Amending Acts, &c., Motion for Address [23] 605, 606; [25] 1442, 1444

Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, 2R. [28] 1161

Finance Bill, 1R. [27] 353, 354, 355, 356; 3R., 1222, 1232, 1234

French Republic—Assassination of the President, Res. [26] 207

Indian Salt Laws [23] 319

Injured Animals Bill, Com. [25] 762, 763, 764

Irish Church Fund [25] 280

Law of Inheritance Amendment Bill, 2R. [23] 1393, 1394

Licensing Law Amendment Bill, 2R. [26] 927, 934

Limitation of Actions Bill, 2R. [23] 446; Com. 1206

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill, 2R. [25] 389

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill, 2R. [25] 390

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12) Bill, Com. [26] 1046

Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Com. [28] 1168, 1183, 1190

Locomotive Threshing Engines Bill, Com., [26] 938

London County Council (Tower Bridge Southern Approach) Bill, 2R. [25] 1321, 1322

Luccombe and Stoke-Pero, School Accommodation at [23] 439, 440

Merchandise Marks Act (1887) Amendment Bill, 2R. [25] 773, 778

Music and Dancing Licences (Middlesex) Bill, 2R. [25] 160

Notice of Accidents Bill, Com. [26] 113

Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, 2R. [26] 215; Com. 558

[*cont.*

Salisbury, Marquess of—*cont.*

Pistols Bill, Com. [24] 7, 13, 14; 3R. [26] 658, 659, 660

Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Com. [26] 112

Privy Council, Judicial Committee of—Motion for Address [28] 653

Queen's Speech, Address in Answer to [22] 18

Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [28] 659, 721, 749, 750, 956, 968, 969, 973

Uganda [23] 181; Motion for Papers [25] 146, 148, 155

Welsh Benefices, Sale of [25] 2

Whitsuntide Recess [24] 333

York, Duke and Duchess of—Birth of a Son, Motion for Address [26] 374

Salmon Fisheries in Scotland and Ireland (see under titles Scotland and Ireland)

Salmon Fisheries (Ireland) Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Seton-Karr; Read 1° *May* 3, [24] 332

[Dropped]

Samoan Islands

Administration of, by New Zealand, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 24 [23] 1220; Qs. Sir T. Esmonde, Sir G. Baden-Powell; As. Mr. Buxton *April* 26, 1434; Qs. Sir T. Esmonde, Mr. Hogan; As. Sir E. Grey *April* 30, 1661

Berlin Act, Q. Mr. J. A. Pease; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 28 [24] 1404

British Warships, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 2 [22] 1097

Exiled Samoans, Qs. Mr. Hogan; As. Sir E. Grey *June* 5 [25] 419; *July* 31 [27] 1386

Samuelson, Sir B., *Oxfordshire, Banbury*

Indian Mints, Closing [23] 1675

SANDHURST, Lord (Under Secretary of State for War)

Army (Annual) Bill, 1R. [23] 593; 2R., 816

Army Examinations [26] 1440

Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [28] 944, 946, 947

Uniforms Bill, 2R. [27] 1366

Sandys, Colonel T. M., *Lancashire, S.W., Bootle*

Bootle Jute Company's Works, Strike at [23] 14

Prison Labour—Sack-Making [23] 14

Sanitary Questions (see under *Local Government Board*)

Saunders, Mr. W., *Newington, Walworth*
  - Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, 2R. [27] 915
  - Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 845, 849
  - Liverpool Telegraph Office [23] 852, 1679
  - Lord Walsingham's Cottage Tenantry [27] 1018
  - Newspaper Postage [23] 853
  - Science and Art Department Writers [23] 1680
  - Workmen's Trains, Overcrowding [24] 793

Saunderson, Colonel E. J., *Armagh, N.*
  - Business of the House—Procedure on the Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Arbitration Bill, Res. [27] 1438, 1441
  - Portadown Post Office [23] 192
  - Queen's Speech, Reply to [22] 295
  - Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [23] 925, 926, 927, 928; 2R. [27] 435, 694, 695; Com., 1053, 1189, 1190, 1200, 1202; 3R. [28] 283, 361

Savings Banks
  - *Cardiff*, Q. Mr. Howell; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 21 [25] 1644
  - *Friendly Societies*, Accounts pres.; to be printed *June* 8 [25] 760
  - *National Debt*, Copy pres. *Mar* 29 [22] 999
  - *Post Office* (see under title *Post Office*)

Savings Banks (Societies) Bill
  - *c.* Intro., Mr. A. Morley; Read 1° *May* 10 [24] 910
  - Read 2° *June* 1 [25] 270
  - Con. in Com.; R.P. *June* 7, 667; *June* 14, 1162
  - Debate resumed; Reported *June* 15, 1314
  - Withdrawn *July* 16 [27] 115

Savory, Sir J., *Westmoreland, Appleby*
  - Glebe Lands Act, Sales under [26] 564

Saxe-Coburg, Duke of
  - *Annuity*, Res. (Mr. A. C. Morton) *April* 20 [23] 1033

Schools and School Boards (see under *Education*; *Scotch and Irish Questions* (see under titles Scotland *and* Ireland)

Schwann, Mr. C. E., *Manchester, N.*
  - Armenian Prisoners [23] 854; [27] 1407
  - Ceylon
    - Defences of Colombo [22] 1443
    - Land Taxes [24] 1408
    - Rifle Ranges [22] 1444
  - Crimean and Indian Veterans' Pensions [25] 1093

[*cont.*

Schwann, Mr. C. E.—*cont.*
  - Dismissal of Police Officer Kemp [27] 21
  - Manchester Post Office [22] 1101; [26] 1314
  - Naval Engineers' Examinations [22] 1443; [27] 671
  - Tramways Bill, Intro. [22] 459
  - Volunteer Long Service Medal [25] 1085

Science and Art Department
  - *Directory*, Q. Sir F. Mappin; A. Mr. Acland *May* 29 [24] 1530; Q. Mr. S. Smith; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 9 [28] 464
  - *Kensington Local Eaminations*, Q. Mr. Diamond; A. Mr. Acland *July* 20 [27] 550
  - *Vote for*, Con. in Com. *Aug* 20 [29] 90; Report and Debate *Aug* 21, 215
  - *Writers*, Q. Mr. Saunders; A. Mr. Acland *April* 30 [23] 1680

Scilly Islands
  - *Local Government Acts*, Q. Mr. Channing; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 7 [25] 591

Scoble, Sir A. R., *Hackney, Central*
  - Finance Bill, Com., *New cls.* [26] 746, 748
  - India
    - Civil Service Pensions [25] 1644
    - Government of, Res. [28] 1072, 1085
    - Revenue Accounts, Com. [28] 1338, 1339
  - St. Botolph, Aldgate, Charities [25] 399

SCOTLAND
  - Secretary for—Sir G. O. Trevelyan
  - Lord Advocate—Mr. J. B. Balfour
  - Solicitor General—Mr. T. Shaw
  - *Aberdeen University Library*, Q. Mr. Crombie; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 28 [24] 1398
  - *Agriculture* (*Royal Commission*), Copy pres. *April* 10 [23] 112
  - *Army*
    - *Artillery Practice on the Firth of Clyde*, Q. Sir C. Cameron; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 12 [26] 1468
    - *Barry Links*, Q. Captain Hope; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Aug* 9 [28] 463
    - *Caithness Volunteer Artillery Corps*, Q. Mr. Labouchere; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 30 [23] 1684
    - *Dalmore Shooting Range*, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Aug* 10 [28] 564
    - *Hamilton Brigade Depôt*, Q. Mr. Hozier; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Mar* 13 [22] 142
    - *Highland Light Infantry Militia*, Q. Mr. H. Smith; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *Aug* 3 [28] 30
  - *Art Exhibition at Glasgow*, Q. Mr. C. M'Laren; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *April* 20 [23] 986
  - *Ayrshire Secondary Education Grant* (see sub-heading *Education*)

[*cont.*

SCOTLAND—cont.

Berwickshire Inland Revenue Business, Q. Mr. Jacks; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 31, [27] 1396

Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Vaccination, Copy pres. *Mar* 12 [22] 127

Bothwell Miners' Disturbance, Qs. Mr. D. Crawford; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *Aug* 13 [28] 767; *Aug* 14, 995

Bravery, Treasury Appreciation of—Case of McNicoll, Q. Mr. W. Whitelaw; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *July* 26 [27] 1005

Caithness Evictions—Mr. J. Laurie, Q. Dr. Clark; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 8 [24] 590

Carr Lightship, Q. Sir J. Leng; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 8 [25] 674

Castles, References to, in Debate on the *Estimates, July* 6 [26] 1109, &c.

Cathedrals and Abbeys, Qs. Mr. C. Williams; As. Mr. H. Gladstone *July* 6 [26] 1077; *Aug* 22 [29] 278

Cattle—Diseased Sheep at Ardrishaig, Q. Sir D. Macfarlane; A. Mr. Gardner *July* 13 [26] 1556

Cattle-Weighing Machines, Qs. Mr. Dane; As. Mr. Gardner *May* 7 [24] 456; *May* 31 [25] 13

Cess and Stent Taxes, Qs. Mr. W. Whitelaw; As. Mr. J. B. Balfour *April* 10 [23] 24; *April* 24, 1214; Qs. Mr. W. Whitelaw; As. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 7 [24] 480; *June* 5 [25] 427

Channel Fleet, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 5 [25] 421; Qs. Commander Bethell; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 15, 1223; *June* 25 [26] 135

Clyde Lighthouse Trustees, Q. Captain Sinclair; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 9 [28] 470

Coal Strike, Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 29 [26] 577; Qs. Mr. Wason, Mr. Stuart-Wortley, Mr. J. Wilson, Mr. H. Smith; As. Mr. Bryce, Mr. Asquith *July* 26 [27] 1016; Q. Mr. D. Crawford; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 10 [28] 554; Q. Mr. Paul; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 24 [29] 420

Coll Free Church Minister, Qs. Sir C. Cameron; As. Mr. J. B. Balfour *June* 5 [25] 409; *June* 14, 1101; *June* 21, 1620

Commissary Clerks and the Finance Bill, Q. Sir C. Pearson; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 21 [25] 1628

County Council Deputations to London, Qs. Sir H. Maxwell, Mr. Caldwell, Dr. Macgregor; As. Mr. J. B. Balfour *June* 5 [25] 401

County Council Statutory Meetings, Q. Mr. A. Cross; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *Mar* 15 [22] 336

County Rates, Return pres. *May* 2 [24] 200

Crofters

Cantyre—Torresdale Estate, Q. Sir D. Macfarlane; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *June* 7 [25] 569

Colonisation Board Staff, Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *June* 4 [25] 294; *June* 5, 409

[*cont.*

SCOTLAND—cont.

Crofters—cont.

Commission, Q. Mr. S. Keay; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *April* 2 [22] 1097; Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 4 [24] 361, 371; Q. Dr. Macgregor; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 8, 586; Qs. Dr. Macgregor; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *June* 4 [25] 300; *June* 11, 805; Qs. Mr. Weir, Dr. Macgregor; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *June* 12, 918; Q. Dr. Macgregor; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *June* 14, 1100; Q. Dr. Macgregor; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 19, 1475; Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *Aug* 10 [28] 552; *Aug* 23 [29] 362; References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Mar* 21 [22] 792, &c.; *Aug* 20, 85, &c.

County Rate Collection at Ullapool, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 1 [24] 23

Crofters' Act, 1886, Res. (Sir D. Macfarlane) *April* 27 [23] 1638

Leaseholders, Q. Dr. Macgregor; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 1 [24] 42

Legislation, Qs. Mr. Weir, Dr. Macgregor; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *April* 12 [23] 220; Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Mr. Speaker, Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 1 [24] 40; Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 4, 378; *May* 10, 811; Qs. Dr. Macgregor, Sir D. Macfarlane; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *June* 4 [25] 300

Rents, Q. Sir L. Lyell; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *June* 15 [25] 1217

Saltcoats Settlements, Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *April* 3 [22] 1254; *May* 24 [24] 1173; *May* 28, 1420; *July* 9 [26] 1192; References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 20 [29] 103, &c.

Tiree—Erection of a March Dyke, Q. Sir D. Macfarlane; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *July* 19 [27] 359

Day Trespass Act, Prosecution under, Q. Sir C. Cameron; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *Mar* 16 [22] 433

Dingwall Prosecutions (see under subheadings *Dog Licences*, *Fisheries*, and *Game*)

Disestablishment, Qs. Mr. Hozier, Mr. Thorburn, Sir W. Lawson; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *Mar* 20 [22] 696; Qs. Mr. Crombie, Mr. Hozier; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *Aug* 21 [29] 149; References to, in Debate on the *Queen's Speech*, *Mar* 12 [22] 121, &c. (Refer also to title *Church of Scotland Bill*)

Dog Licences—Prosecution of Donald Macree, &c., Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *May* 29 [24] 1523; Q. Mr. Weir; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *June* 18 [25] 1344; Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 3 [26] 798; *July* 16 [27] 23; Q. Mr. Weir; A. Sir W. Harcourt *Aug* 10 [28] 561

Dog Muzzling Order Prosecutions, Q. Mr. Paul; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *Aug* 20 [29] 15

Dundee Tailoring Trade, Q. Sir J. Leng; A. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 20 [22] 678

[*cont.*

SCOTLAND—cont.

Edinburgh

Castle Rock, Q. Viscount Wolmer; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 5 [22] 1449

Commissary Office, Q. Viscount Wolmer; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *April* 5 [22] 1449

Lord Rosebery's Visit to, Qs. Mr. Renshaw, Mr. Hozier, Sir J. Gorst, Mr. Dalziel; As. Sir W. Harcourt *Mar* 15 [22] 347

Res. (Lord R. Churchill) *Mar* 19 [22] 588

Museum Attendants, Q. Mr. Paul; A. Mr. Acland *May* 28 [24] 1392

Road Subventions, Q. Captain Hope; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *April* 19 [23] 838

University, Q. Dr. Macgregor; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *April* 26 [23] 1411

University, Copy pres. *Mar* 12 [22] 127

Education

Ardchattan Episcopal School, Q. Sir D. Macfarlane; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *July* 12 [26] 1471

Assault by a Lewis Schoolmaster, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *April* 9 [22] 1567

Attendance—State-Aided Schools, &c., Q. Mr. Caldwell; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 28 [24] 1416

Ayr County Committee—Secondary Grant, Q. Mr. Wason; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *July* 2 [26] 688; Qs. Mr. Birkmyre; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *July* 16 [27] 25; *July* 19, 366

Books, Q. Mr. Dalziel; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *Mar* 20 [22] 682; Qs. Mr. D. Crawford, Sir C. Cameron, Dr. Farquharson; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *April* 23 [23] 1081; Q. Mr. Jacks; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 25 [24] 1267; Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *June* 4 [25] 290

Copies pres. *April* 19 [23] 956; *June* 8 [25] 760; *July* 9 [26] 1280

Dunnet School Board, Q. Dr. Clark; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *Aug* 2 [27] 1558

Edinburgh University (see under sub-heading *Edinburgh*)

Education Act, Working of, Qs. Mr. Jacks, Mr. Dalziel; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *Mar* 16 [22] 437

Education Code, Q. Mr. Diamond; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 4 [24] 372; Q. Mr. S. Keay; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 7, 459; Motion (Mr. Renshaw) *May* 10, 901; Motion (Mr. A. Cross) *May* 10, 908; Q. Mr. Hozier; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *Aug* 21 [29] 168

Education Code, 1894, Copy pres. *April* 12 [23] 307

Evening Continuation Schools Code, Q. Sir C. Cameron; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 25 [24] 1272; Res. *May* 28, 1496

Evening Schools Code, 1894, Copy pres. *April* 12 [23] 307

Examinations under the New Code, Q. Mr. J. Wilson (Lanark, Govan); A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 29 [24] 1542

Glasgow Pupil Teachers' Institution, Q. Sir C. Cameron; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *June* 8 [25] 685

Inspectors of Secondary Education, Q. Dr. Farquharson; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 24 [24] 1172

[*cont.*

SCOTLAND—cont.

Education—cont.

Parish Councils, Q. Dr. Macgregor; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 22 [24] 997; Q. Sir H. Maxwell; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 31 [25] 40

Peats—Children Taking to Schools, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *Mar* 22 [22] 865

Results Fees, Q. Mr. Maxwell; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 24 [24] 1186

St. Andrews University (see that sub-heading)

School Board Elections, Voting for, Qs. Mr. Napier, Mr. Hozier, Dr. Macgregor; As. Mr. J. B. Balfour *April* 19 [23] 841

Science and Art Examinations, Q. Sir J. Leng; A. Mr. Acland *June* 15 [25] 1207

Secondary Education, Q. Sir D. Macfarlane; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *Mar* 20 [22] 678; Q. Mr. Crombie; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 25 [24] 1266

Secondary and Technical Education, Q. Mr. D. Crawford; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *June* 8 [25] 689

Shetland and the Education Code, Q. Sir L. Lyell; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *June* 1 [25] 178

Teachers' Training Colleges, Q. Captain Sinclair; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *April* 17 [23] 630

Universities Act (1889) (*Ordinance, Nos. 46, 47, 48*), Copies pres. *Mar* 13 [22] 256

Universities Act (1889) (*Ordinance, No. 53*), Copy pres. *July* 9 [26] 1280

Vote for and Debate on Aug 21 [29] 230, &c.

Elgin—Prosecutions for Burning, Q. Mr. S. Keay; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *May* 7 [24] 472

Employers' Liability, Qs. Mr. W. Whitelaw, Mr. Hozier, Mr. Caldwell; As. Mr. J. B. Balfour *April* 19 [23] 853

"*Escaped Nun,*" *Prosecution of, at Glasgow*, Q. Mr. Diamond; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *April* 30 [23] 1669

Feus and Leases Committee, Q. Dr. Macgregor; A. Mr. J. Balfour *June* 7 [25] 570

Feus and Building Leases, Select Com. appointed *April* 11 [23] 171; Minutes of Evidence ordered *April* 16, 590; Report *July* 26 [27] 1008

Financial Relations (see that title)

Fiscal for Ross and Cromarty—Applications for Licences, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *May* 22 [24] 998

Fisheries

Arran Foreshore, Q. Mr. Birkmyre; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *April* 10 [23] 10

Cruisers, Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *April* 17 [23] 610; *May* 17 [24] 474; *June* 4 [25] 285; *Aug* 14 [28] 990

Dingwall Salmon Poaching Prosecution, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *June* 18 [25] 1350; Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *July* 3 [26] 799

Fishermen's Rights, Q. Sir D. Macfarlane; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *Aug* 7 [28] 239

[*cont.*

SCOTLAND—cont.

- *Fisheries*—cont.
  - *Fishery Board*, Copy of Report Pres. *Aug* 22 [29] 344
  - *Hatchery at Campbeltown Loch*, Q. Mr. Birkmyre; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *June* 23 [27] 665
  - *Herring Fishing*, Q. Sir W. Wedderburn; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *April* 30 [23] 1676
  - *Licences*, Qs. Mr. Weir, Dr. Macgregor; As. Sir G. Trevelyan, Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 24 [24] 1174; References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 18 [28] 1588
  - *Loch Fyne Herrings*, Q. Sir D. Macfarlane; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *Mar* 15 [22] 311
  - *Loch Fyne—Sunday Fishing*, Q. Sir D. Macfarlane; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *July* 26 [27] 1015
  - *Loch Ryan Oyster Fishery*, Q. Sir H. Maxwell; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 7 [24] 457
  - *Loch Tarbert*, Q. Sir D. Macfarlane; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *July* 30 [27] 1262
  - *Moray Firth — Fishermen and Water Bailiffs*, Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Mr. J. B. Balfour *April* 17 [23] 612; *May* 1 [24] 24
  - *Oban Prosecutions*, Q. Sir D. Macfarlane; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *July* 30 [27] 1261
  - *Salmon Fisheries Regulations*, Q. Dr. Macgregor; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 3 [24] 209
  - *Trawling—Gunboats for the Protection of Fishing, &c.*, Qs. Sir L. Lyell, Mr. Buchanan; As. Mr. J. B. Balfour *Mar* 13 [22] 145; Qs. Sir W. Wedderburn; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *Mar* 15, 317; *April* 2, 1096; Q. Sir L. Lyell; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *Mar* 15, 333; Q. Mr. Wason; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *May* 10 [24] 776; Q. Sir L. Lyell; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 31 [25] 30; Q. Sir L. Lyell; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *June* 7, 565; Qs. Sir L. Lyell, Mr. Buchanan; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 15, 1220; Q. Mr. Birkmyre; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *June* 19, 1454; Q. Sir L. Lyell; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *July* 3 [26] 948; Q. Mr. Birkmyre; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *July* 5, 952; Q. Mr. Weir; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *July* 9, 1191; Q. Dr. Macgregor; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *July* 16 [27] 27; Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *Aug* 3 [28] 12; Q. Mr. Weir; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *Aug* 7, 251; Q. Mr. Buchanan; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *Aug* 20 [29] 24; References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Mar* 22 [22] 890; *Aug* 20 [29] 53, &c.
- *Food Adulteration*, Q. Mr. A. C. Morton; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 31 [25] 39
- *Footpaths in the Island of Lewis*, Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *Mar* 22 [22] 859; *April* 9, 1566
- *Forres Borough Auditorship*, Qs. Mr. Beith; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 24 [24] 1175; *July* 5 [26] 951
- *Forth at Cruickness, Pollution of*, Q. Mr. Paul; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 2 [27] 1569
- *Fort William Foreshores*, Q. Sir D. Macfarlane; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 9 [26] 1188; Q. Dr. Macgregor; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 30 [27] 1253

[*cont.*

SCOTLAND—cont.

- *Game Prosecutions*, Qs. Sir C. Cameron; As. Mr. J. B. Balfour *Mar* 22 [22] 858; *April* 3, 1252; *April* 9, 1570; Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *Aug* 10 [28] 551
- *Glasgow Cathedral*, Q. Mr. C. Williams; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *Aug* 22 [29] 278
- *Glasgow Faculty of Procurators — Justices of the Peace*, Q. Mr. Maclure; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *May* 31 [25] 41
- *Glasgow Shipowners' Associations—Manning of the Mercantile Marine*, Q. Mr. Baird; A. Mr. Burt *May* 28 [24] 1394
- *Government Messengers in Glasgow*, Q. Mr. P. Smith; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *July* 12 [26] 1472
- *Grazing on the Public Roads*, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *July* 9 [26] 1191
- *Habitual Offenders*, Qs. Mr. Paul; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *April* 5 [22] 1435; *June* 5 [25] 1221
- *Hall, Mr. H.—Case of*, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *July* 2 [26] 683
- *Harbours in the Island of Lewis*, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 28 [24] 1390
- *Home Rule*, Qs. Dr. Macgregor, Mr. Maclure; As. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 12 [23] 220; Res. (Mr. Dalziel) *April* 3 [22] 1287
- *Inland Revenue Prosecutions in the Highlands* (see sub-heading *Dog Licences*)
- *Intoxicants, Sale of, to Children*, Q. Sir C. Cameron; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *June* 15 [25] 1209
- *Invergordon Ferry*, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *Mar* 22 [22] 860
- *Irish Paupers, Deportation of, from Scotland*, Qs. Mr. Dane; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 8 [24] 583; *May* 29, 1544; Q. Mr. Dane; A. Mr. J. Morley *June* 4 [25] 288; Q. Mr. Macartney; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 9 [26] 1188
- *Ironworkers' Wages*, Q. Mr. Caldwell; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *June* 18 [25] 1342
- *Island of Cumbrae Postal Arrangements*, Q. Mr. G. Murray; A. Mr. A. Morley *April* 30, [23] 1668
- *Lanarkshire Mining Accident*, Qs. Mr. Caldwell; As. Mr. Asquith *July* 12 [26] 1480; *July* 16 [27] 23; *July* 26, 1014
- *Law Agents—Case of Mr. Sproat*, Q. Mr. Caldwell; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *June* 11 [25] 789
- *Law Officers' Salaries*, Q. Mr. G. Murray; A. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 19 [27] 382
- *Leaving Certificates — Examiners*, Q. Mr. Crombie; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *June* 21 [25] 1622
- *Lewis Procurator Fiscal*, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *April* 17 [23] 613
- *Licensing*
  - *Courts*, Q. Sir W. Lawson; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *June* 1 [25] 167
  - *Glasgow*, Q. Mr. J. Wilson; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *April* 24 [23] 1216
  - *Lewis*, Q. and Obs. Lord Stanley of Alderley, Lord Herschell *July* 9 [26] 1171

[*cont.*

SCOTLAND—cont.
Licensing—cont.
Magistrates, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 29 [24] 1539
Stornoway, Q. Sir W. Lawson; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *May* 10 [24] 761
Lighthouses
Flannan Islands, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 7 [24] 463; Q. Mr. Buchanan; A. Mr. Mundella *May* 7, 484; Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Burt *May* 28, 1389
Portnahaven, Q. Sir D. Macfarlane; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 28 [24] 1400
Linn of Dee, Qs. Mr. A. C. Morton; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *July* 23 [27] 665; *July* 26, 1002
Loch Broom Navigation, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 17 [23] 632
Lochmaddy, *Procurator Fiscal of*, Q. Dr. Macgregor; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *Mar* 22 [22] 862
Lunacy
Pauper Lunatics, Q. Mr. S. Will; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 29 [24] 1538
Reports of, Q. Mr. J. Redmond; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 7 [24] 460; Qs. Mr. Harrington; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *July* 19 [27] 377; Q. Dr. Kenny; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *July* 26, 1006
Magistrates' Appointment Fees, Q. Sir J. Kinloch; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *April* 12 [23] 190
May Island—*Navigation Difficulties*, Q. Sir J. Leng; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 8 [25] 674
Meat—*Marking of Foreign Meat, &c.* (see that title)
Medical Degrees at St. Andrews University, Petition pres. *June* 4 [25] 273
Milk Adulteration, Q. Mr. A. C. Morton; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 31 [25] 39
National Gallery — *Curatorship*, Q. Mr. R. Wallace; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 24 [24] 1175
Parliamentary Business
Legislation, Qs. Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Dalziel, Dr. Macgregor, Mr. Anstruther; As. Sir G. Trevelyan, Sir W. Harcourt *Mar* 15 [22] 326; Q. Mr. Hozier; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *Mar* 20, 691
Standing Committee—Motion for (Sir G. Trevelyan) *April* 2 [22] 1116; Debate resumed and adjourned *April* 5, 1487; Adjourned Debate resumed and adjourned *April* 17 [23] 648; Debate resumed *April* 20, 991; *Amendt.* (Viscount Wolmer), 1004; *Division*, 1020; *Amendt.* (Sir H. Maxwell), 1021; Agreed to; *Amendt.* (Mr. Little), 1025; *Division*, 1033; Debate adjourned; Debate resumed *April* 27 [23] 1588; *Amendts.* (Mr. Renshaw's), 1590; (Mr. Wodehouse's), 1599; (Mr. J. A. Campbell's), 1600; (Mr. A. J. Balfour's), 1602; *Division*, 1606; (Mr. Hozier's), 1607; *Division*, 1613; Reports *May* 25 [24] 1362; *June* 1 [25] 270
Parliamentary Voters' Returns, Qs. Mr. Mowbray, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; As. Mr. G. Russell *April* 30 [23] 1688

[*cont.*

SCOTLAND—cont.
Parochial Grants, Q. Mr. Hozier; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *Mar* 13 [22] 142
Pauper Children, *Religion of*, Qs. Mr. O'Driscoll, Mr. M. Healy; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *July* 2 [26] 677
Peterhead Harbour, *Vote for*, and Debate on, *Aug* 17 [28] 1396
Police
Bothwell Park Miners, Qs. Mr. D. Crawford; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *Aug* 13 [28] 767; *Aug* 14, 995
Carnoustie District, Q. Sir J. Leng; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *June* 8 [25] 672
Cost of, Q. Mr. Dalziel; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *April* 20 [23] 978
Duties of Commissioners of Police Burghs, Q. Mr. Maxwell; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *Mar* 16 [22] 441
Forres Account Auditorship, Qs. Mr. Beith; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 24 [24] 1175; *July* 5 [26] 951
Inspectors—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 20 [29] 46, &c.
Labour Meetings, Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *June* 28 [26] 457
Pensions, Q. Mr. Caldwell; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 7 [24] 465; Q. Mr. Cochrane; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *May* 10, 806; Qs. Mr. Paul, Mr. Hunter; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *July* 12 [26] 1482
Perth City, Qs. Mr. W. Whitelaw, Viscount Wolmer, Mr. Hunter; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *July* 26 [27] 1006
Portnaguran Harbour, Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 28 [24] 1390; *May* 29, 1538
Portness Harbour Works, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 4 [24] 362
Post Office
Crieff, Q. Sir D. Macfarlane; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 29 [24] 1545
Perth, Q. Mr. W. Whitelaw; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 24 [27] 801
Postmasters and Private Agencies, Q. Mr. Buchanan; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 8 [24] 601
Surveyors' Stationary Clerks, Q. Mr. Wason; A. Mr. A. Morley *May* 25 [24] 1270
Prisons
Barlinnie, Q. Mr. W. Whitelaw; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *Mar* 22 [22] 862
Mat-Making, Q. Mr. Quilter; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *July* 12 [26] 1489
Peterhead, Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *June* 25 [26] 133
Public Health Act, 1867 (Cholera Regulations), Copy pres. *July* 9 [26] 1280
Public Works Expenditure, Q. Mr. Renshaw; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *Mar* 15 [22] 303
Railways
Automatic Brake—*Highland Trains*, Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Mr. Bryce *June* 25 [26] 116; *Aug* 10 [28] 552
Bettisfield Collision, Q. Mr. Provand; A. Mr. Burt *April* 26 [23] 1442
Cattle Trucks on the Highland Railway, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 16 [28] 1241

[*cont.*

SCOTLAND—cont.

- *Railways*—cont.
  - *Dunphail Accident*, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Mundella *May* 1 [24] 40; Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Burt *May* 24, 1173; Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Mr. Bryce *June* 5 [25] 416; *June* 11, 811
  - *Fort William Foreshores*, Q. Sir D. Macfarlane; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 9 [26] 1188; Q. Dr. Macgregor; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 30 [27] 1253
  - *Garve and Ullapool*, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Sir W. Harcourt *Aug* 3 [28] 24
  - *Highland Railways*—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 18 [28] 1531, &c.
  - *Hours of Labour*, Q. Mr. W. Whitelaw; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 30 [23] 1685; Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 5 [25] 417; Q. Mr. W. Whitelaw; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 24 [27] 791
  - *Insanitary Stations on the Highland Railway*, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Mundella *May* 7 [24] 465
  - *Rates*, Q. Mr. Dalziel; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 12 [25] 907; Q. Mr. S. Keay; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 5 [26] 947
  - *Ross-shire*, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 3 [22] 1255
  - *Tain Collision—Hours of Labour*, Q. Mr. Channing; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 7 [25] 594
  - *West Highland—Mallaig Railway*, Qs. Dr. Macgregor, Mr. Goschen; As. Sir W. Harcourt *Aug* 6 [28] 146
- *Rate Collection at Ullapool*, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 1 [24] 23
- *Representative Peers*, Q. and Obs. Marquess of Lothian, Earl of Rosebery *June* 18 [25] 1335
- *Returning Officers*, Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 25 [24] 1267; *June* 4 [25] 285, 295; *June* 5, 395
- *Road Subventions in Edinburgh*, Q. Captain Hope; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *April* 19 [23] 838
- *Rosehall Colliery Check-Weighing Dispute*, Q. Mr. D. Crawford; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 3 [24] 218
- *Ross-shire — West Coast, Communication with*, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *May* 28 [24] 1389
- *Royal Observatory* (*Edinburgh*), Copy pres. *May* 21 [24] 995
- *Saddell Tenancy Dispute*, Qs. Sir D. Macfarlane, Dr. Macgregor; As. Mr. J. B. Balfour *Mar* 22 [22] 857
- *St. Andrews University Medical Degrees*, Petition pres. *June* 4 [25] 273
- *St. Andrews, University of*, Accounts pres.; to be printed *June* 22 [26] 22
- *St. Andrews University—Rev. J. Herkless*, Q. Sir C. Dalrymple; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *April* 5 [22] 1441
- *Service Franchise*, Qs. Mr. Napier, Mr. Hozier, Sir C. Dilke, Dr. Macgregor; As. Mr. J. B. Balfour *April* 19 [23] 841
- *Sheriff Johnstone* (see sub-heading *Returning Officers*)

SCOTLAND—cont.

- *Sheriffs and the Gaelic Language*, Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Mr. J. B. Balfour *Mar* 22 [22] 858; *April* 3, 1251; *April* 17 [23] 610
- *Small Holdings*, Q. Mr. S. Keay; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *July* 2 [26] 690; *July* 12, 1463
- *Small Isles Medical Attendance*, Qs. Dr. Macgregor; As. Sir G. Trevelyan *April* 20 [23] 964; *May* 29 [24] 1541
- *Small-Pox at Leith*, Q. Sir C. Cameron; A. Sir G. Trevelyan *June* 7 [25] 570
- *Steamboats in the Highlands, Sanitary Condition of*, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Mundella *May* 7 [24] 466; Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Burt *May* 28, 1418
- *Steel Company of Newton—Naval Contracts and Trades Union Wages*, Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 29 [26] 565
- *Stornoway, Channel Fleet at* (see sub-heading *Channel Fleet*)
- *Supreme Court of Judicature* (*Procedure*) *Bill*, Q. Mr. Paul; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *June* 4 [25] 292
- *Sutherlandshire Insanitary Dwellings*, Q Mr. Weir; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *July* 30 [27] 1255
- *Thurso Slaughter-Houses*, Q. Viscount Cranborne; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 21 [29] 156
- *Training Ships*, Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *May* 22 [24] 1001; *Aug* 17 [28] 1386
- *Trawling* (see under sub-heading *Fisheries*)
- *Universities Act (1889) Ordinances, Nos. 46, 47, 48*, Copies pres. *Mar* 13 [22] 256
- *Universities Act, 1889* (*Ordinance, No. 53*), Copy pres. *July* 9 [26] 1280
- *Veterinary College Grant*, Q. Mr. Hozier; A. Mr. J. Morley *Mar* 15 [22] 346

Sea Fisheries Act, 1868

- *Copy pres. June* 22 [26] 22; Printing of *June* 25, 204

Sea Fisheries Committee Report

- Qs. Sir A. Rollit; As. Mr. Mundella *Mar* 2 [22] 870; *Mar* 29, 904; Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 5 [26] 956

Sea Fisheries Regulation (Scotland) Bill

- *c.* Intro., Sir H. Maxwell; Read 1° *April* 20 [23] 1068
- Withdrawn *May* 2 [24] 197

Sea Fisheries (Scotland) Bill

- *c.* Intro., Mr. Anstruther; Read 1° *May* 1 [24] 140
- 2R. deferred *May* 22, 1083
- Withdrawn *June* 15 [25] 1316

[*cont.*

Sea Fisheries (Shell Fish) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Bryce; Read 1° *June* 8 [25] 760
  2R. deferred *June* 18, 1433; *June* 21, 1723; *June* 26 [26] 318
  Read 2° *June* 28, 511
  Con. in Com.; Reported; Read 3°, and passed *June* 29, 656
l. Read 1ª *July* 2, 661
  Read 2ª *July* 9, 1182
  Com.; Reported *July* 12, 1446
  Reported from Standing Com. *July* 17 [27] 157
  Read 3ª, and passed *July* 19, 357
  Royal Assent *July* 20
  [57° & 58° Vic. c. 26]

Sea Fisheries (Shell Fish) Bill
  Qs. Mr. Dodd, Major Rasch; As. Mr. Bryce *June* 21 [25] 1641

Secondary Education—Commission, &c. (see under *Education*)
  (*For Scotch and Irish Questions* see under titles SCOTLAND and IRELAND)

SELBORNE, Earl of
  Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, 2R. [25] 1177

Select Committee (see under *Parliament*)

Select Vestries Bill
l. Pres. pro formâ; Read 1ª *Mar* 12 [22] 4

SETON-KARR, Mr. H., *St. Helen's*
  Army Examinations [24] 1281
  Business of the House, Res. [22] 1632; [25] 49, 53
  Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act (1887) Repeal Bill, 2R. [23] 766
  Egypt
    British Trade [26] 226
    Education [26] 1295
    Sanitary Condition of [27] 672
  Employers' Liability Bill, Intro. [22] 1316
  Introduction of and Ballotting for Bills [22] 461
  Newcastle and Gateshead Water Bill, 2R. [24] 1516, 1520, 1521, 1523
  Salmon Fisheries (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [24] 332

Settled Land Act (1882) Amendment Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Cozens-Hardy; Read 1° *July* 18 [27] 332
  Withdrawn *Aug* 1, 1554

Sewers, Suffocation in (see under *Local Government Board*)

SEXTON, Mr. T., *Kerry, N.*
  Budget Proposals [23] 636, 637, 857, 1681; [24] 378
  Business of the House [23] 1455; [26] 578
  Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway Bill, 2R. [23] 113
  Finance Bill, Motion to report Progress [24] 1221; Com. [26] 490, 636, 637, 745
  House of Lords—Rejection of Bills [29] 22
  Introduction of and Ballotting for Bills [22] 129, 130, 132, 136, 160

  Ireland
    Army Examinations [23] 1686
    Arran Islands, Destitution in [23] 466, 833, 834, 1436, 1439; [24] 790
    Belfast Ship's Carpenter, Manslaughter by [23] 8
    Belfast Workhouse Lunatics [23] 967, 1667; [24] 461; [27] 1258
    Berehaven Harbour [26] 1063
    Board of Irish Lights [22] 573
    Board of Works Loans [22] 874; [28] 454
    Carn National School [25] 684, 1071; [28] 567
    Catholic Girls in Lurgan [25] 1228
    Cattle Outrages [25] 307; [26] 1571
    Cattle Seizures in County Kerry [25] 917, 1091, 1464
    Charitable Bequests—Investments [28] 462
    Church Fund [22] 581; [23] 1671
    Clanricarde Agent [27] 1388
    Clare County, Crime in [22] 325
    Clogher Petty Sessional Bench [26] 131
    Clogher Sessions Clerkship [25] 1461
    Cork Street Preacher—Mr. Williams [23] 1414, 1415; [24] 212
    Cork—Sunday Disturbances [22] 1590
    County Tyrone Magisterial Bench—Holders of Retail Licences [26] 131
    Crime, Decrease of [23] 458
    Curtin, Mr. Fergus [28] 566
    Deed Stamping [23] 1215
    Dispensary Committees [23] 323
    Education—Intermediate Education Fund [25] 1215
    Evictions [22] 698, 703, 1459, 1511; [23] 829
    Excise Regulations, Infringement of [25] 1098
    Female Assistant Teachers [27] 1258
    Fermoy Union Accounts [22] 322
    Freemasons and the Police [29] 14
    Galway, Crime in [28] 456
    High Sheriffs [26] 429
    Income Tax and Labourers' Cottages [24] 46
    Irish Language [29] 363, 364
    Killarney Union, Financial Condition of [23] 1092; [24] 372
    Kittson Estate, Listowel—Rents [25] 295
    Labourers' Act Loan to Listowel [28] 137
    Labourers' Cottages, Clonakilty [23] 633
    Land Acts Committee [22] 698, 878, 1455; [23] 310, 312, 398; Report [28] 1257; [29] 30
    Land-Grabbing Denunciations, &c. [25] 554, 796, 797
    Land Purchase—Case of Mr. Allman [26] 433

[cont.

SEXTON, Mr. T.—*cont.*
- Ireland—*cont.*
  - Land Sub-Commissioner—Mr. Jeffcot [25] 580
  - Letterkenny Guardians [23] 1412
  - Lewis Estate—Extra Police in County Galway [23] 1579
  - Light Railways [29] 174
  - Limerick Assizes [26] 1303
  - Limerick—Emergency Man, Alleged Shooting by [23] 330, 331
  - Listowel Union [22] 1585; [23] 188; [25] 550, 1629
  - Luggacurren Estate—Extra Police [24] 30
  - Mail Service—New Tenders [25] 23
  - Malicious Burning in Clare County, Claims for [23] 835
  - Malicious Injury Claims in Kerry [26] 691
  - Nationalists (Belfast) and the Police [25] 915
  - O'Hare, Mr., Conviction of, for Drunkenness [25] 305
  - Orange Disturbances, Antrim County [23] 198, 851
  - Phœnix Park [22] 576; [25] 424
  - Portumna—Resident Magistrates' Residences [28] 457
  - Publicans as Magistrates [25] 674
  - Railway Platforms, Police on [29] 361
  - Registration Fees and Poor Law Officials [25] 1638
  - Registration of Titles [24] 593
  - Roscommon County School Accommodation [27] 557
  - Royal Hospital for Incurables, Dublin, [25] 679
  - Shipping Casualty in Lough Ryan [23] 833
  - Sligo, Leitrim, and Northern Counties Railway [23] 1430
  - Small Holdings, Res. [23] 407, 408, 409, 412, 424
  - Tyrone (North) Register [29] 383
  - Westport Disaster [25] 1225
- Irish Haymakers, Attack on, at Barnet [28] 264
- Law Library, Four Courts (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [22] 1115; Com. [23] 586, 587
- Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Lords Amendts. [29] 307
- Members "Pairing" [22] 1518
- Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Con. [24] 1662, 1667, 1668; [25] 542, 543
- Supply
  - House of Lords [28] 1427, 1428; [29] 274
  - Industrial Schools [29] 72
  - Lord Lieutenant's Household [25] 1548
  - National Education in Ireland—Christian Brothers' Schools, &c. [29] 249
  - National Gallery, Ireland [29] 76, 77
  - Report of [23] 124; [29] 179
- Supreme Court of Judicature (Procedure) Bill, Com. [25] 887, 888
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill [24] 243; Intro. [23] 876, 884, 914, 915, 916; 2R. [27] 468; Com., *cl.* 1, 1038, 1065, 1066, 1067, 1069, 1152, 1161, 1163, 1187, 1209, 1210, 1211, 1498, 1533, 1534, 1535, 1536; *cl.* 2, 1536, 1539, 1541; *cl.* 3, 1544, 1545, 1547, 1548, 1549, 1551; *cl.* 4, 1553, 1587,

[*cont.*

SEXTON, Mr. T.—*cont.*
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill—*cont.* 1588, 1591; *cl.* 6, 1595, 1597; *cl.* 7, 1598; *cl.* 8, 1600; *New cls.*, 1603, 1604, 1605; Con. [28] 150, 151, 153, 154, 158, 160, 161; 163, 164, 166, 167, 168, 170, 172, 177, 178, 179
- Ways and Means, Com. [29] 124, 125, 126, 127, 131, 136, 137, 147

SHAW, Mr. C. E., *Stafford*
- Navy—Boot Contracts [24] 1285; [27] 376

SHAW, Mr. T. (Solicitor General for Scotland), *Hawick, &c.*
- Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Con. [28] 588, 604
- Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [23] 700

SHAW, Mr. W. R., *Halifax*
- Cycle Riding Accidents [24] 1409
- Poet Laureateship [27] 179
- Spanish Tariff [25] 1461

SHAW-STEWART, Mr. M. H., *Renfrew, E.*
- Finance Bill, Com. [25] 1122

SHEEHY, Mr. D., *Galway, S.*
- Arran Islands Distress [22] 319; [23] 465

Shipping (see *Merchant Shipping*)

Shop Hours Act (1892) Amendment Bill
- c. Intro., Mr. Provand; Read 1° *April* 24 [23] 1328
- Read 2° *April* 30, 1784
- Con. in Com., R.P. *May* 1 [24] 139; *May* 23, 1126

[Dropped]

Shop Hours Act, 1892 (Inspectors Appointed)
- *Return pres. June* 5 [25] 496

Shops (Early Closing) Bill
- c. Intro., Sir J. Lubbock; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 456

[Dropped]

Shops, Hours of Labour in
- Q. Mr. Anstruther; A. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 20 [22] 684

SIAM
- *Affairs of*, Qs. Sir A. Rollit, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; As. Sir E. Grey *July* 20 [27] 551
- *Attack on British Subjects at Bangkok*, Q. Mr. Hayden; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 10 [24] 781

[*cont.*

SIAM—*cont.*

Franco-Siamese Question—Papers, &c.
Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Sir E. Grey *Mar* 22 [22] 868; Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 10 [24] 794
Debate on, in Com. of *Supply*, *Mar* 30 [22] 1060; *May* 25 [24] 1310
Q. and Obs. Lord Lamington, Earl of Kimberley *July* 19 [27] 333; Q. Mr. J. W. Lowther; A. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 10 [28] 556; Qs. Sir R. Temple, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 10, 569
References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *July* 30 [27] 1348, &c.; *Aug* 17 [28] 1464, &c.

French Occupation at Chantabun, Qs. Mr. Curzon, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir E. Grey *July* 17 [27] 166

SIDEBOTHAM, Mr. J. W., *Cheshire, Hyde*
Ashton-under-Lyme Sewage Scheme [28] 993
Coinage of Silver [24] 238

SIDEBOTTOM, Mr. T. H., *Stalybridge*
Ashton-under-Lyme Sewage Scheme [25] 792

SIDEBOTTOM, Mr. W., *Derbyshire, High Peak*
Army Estimates
Volunteers [26] 907
Warlike and other Stores [26] 1013
Supply—Elementary Education—Requirements of the Education Department [22] 389

SIDMOUTH, Viscount
Malta Harbour, Unsanitary Condition of [26] 1175, 1177
Navy, State of [24] 433, 444
Newton Abbot Workhouse Inquiry [26] 389

SIERRA LEONE (*see under* AFRICA)

Signalmen (see under *Railways*)

SINCLAIR, Captain J., *Dumbartonshire*
Clyde Lighthouse Trustees [28] 470
Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Con. [28] 611, 614
New Forest, Cricket in [28] 29
Penny Postage and the Colonies [27] 1397
Scotland—Teachers' Training Colleges [23] 630

Sittings of the House (see under *Parliament*)

SITWELL, Sir G. R., *Scarborough*
School Board Debts [24] 236

Slave Trade
Africa (see under that title)
Freed Slaves, Q. Sir R. Temple; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 19 [23] 861
Red Sea (see that title)

Smaller Dwellings (Scotland) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. A. Cross; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 459
2R. deferred *May* 9 [24] 746
[Dropped]

Small Holdings in Scotland and Ireland (see under those titles)

Small-Pox (see under *Local Government Board*)

Small Tenants (Scotland) Bill
c. Intro., Dr. Farquharson; Read 1° *April* 20 [23] 1068
[Dropped]

SMITH, Hon. W. F. D., *Strand, Westminster*
Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, 2R. [27] 874, 876
Police Constable Whiting [23] 1422

SMITH, Mr. Abel, *Herts, E.*
Waltham Abbey Powder Factory Explosions, Res. [24] 1451

SMITH, Mr. Abel H., *Christchurch*
Army Estimates—Yeomanry [26] 878
Evening Schools Code [24] 373
Uganda Protectorate [23] 1104

SMITH, Mr. Clarence, *Hull, E.*
Germany—Seizure of the "Bluejacket" [24] 1172
Naval Contracts—Hull Tenders [24] 19
Places of Worship, &c. (Rating) Bill, Intro. [22] 459

SMITH, Mr. Harry, *Falkirk, &c.*
Coal Strike in Scotland [27] 1017
Highland Light Infantry Militia [28] 30
Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, 2R. [24] 728

SMITH, Mr. J. Parker, *Lanark, Partick*
American Mail Route [26] 5
Business of the House, Res. [22] 1649
Committee Room No. 10, Ventilation of [28] 266

[*cont.*

SMITH, Mr. J. Parker—*cont.*
- Customs Warehousing Code [25] 688
- Government Messengers in Glasgow [26] 1472
- Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Motion for Leave [23] 1635; 2R. [24] 1074; Motion for Com. 1030; Con. [28] 414, 422, 423, 491, 500, 502, 503, 507, 512, 513, 523, 535, 575, 577, 583, 588, 610
- Merchant Shipping Bill, Re-com. [28] 366
- Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [23] 1025, 1593

SMITH, Mr. S., *Flintshire*
- Ceylon—Opium Question [23] 1219
- Common Land Enclosure in Flintshire [24] 590
- Egypt—Corvée [26] 681, 1189
- Elementary Education (Continuation Schools) Bill, Intro. [26] 104
- Halkyn Mountain Quarries [27] 160
- India
  - Finance [22] 213
  - Government of, Res. [28] 1047, 1142, 1149
  - Inoculation against Cholera [25] 1462
  - Missionary—Imprisonment of at Bombay [24] 363
  - Missions—Midnight Mission at Bombay [24] 363
  - Opium Dens in Bombay [25] 1469
  - Prisons, Mortality in [23] 617
- Liverpool City Recorder [24] 28
- Liverpool, Houses of Ill-Repute in [22] 858
- Massage Scandals [27] 663
- Mines (Eight Hours) Bill [28] 480
- Pauper School Children, Treatment of [26] 121; [27] 1239
- Science and Art Department Directory [28] 464
- Tithe Redemption at Rhyl [24] 1525
- Transvaal—Thrashing the Blacks [22] 683

SNAPE, Mr. T., *Lancashire, S.E., Heywood*
- Business of the House [27] 285
- Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 857; Com., 1237
- Horwich National School [24] 1268
- Hume's Charity [25] 421
- Introduction of and Ballotting for Bills [22] 163
- Kerman—Trade Impositions [25] 421
- Lancashire Charities [26] 692
- Liverpool City Boundaries [24] 753
- Liverpool Corporation Churches' Bill, Intro. [22] 457
- Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Com. [24] 1094, 1106, 1108, 1109, 1110; Con., 1658, 1661, 1667
- Small-Pox at Rawtenstall [25] 799
- Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [27] 1375, 1376
- Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill, Con. [28] 120, 122; 3R., 238
- Wallasey Embankment Bill, 2R. [25] 1449; Com. [26] 1393

"*Sobriety*" *Fatality* (see under *Merchant Shipping*)

Solent Explosion
- Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 30 [27] 1265

SOLICITOR GENERAL—Sir R. T. REID

SOLICITOR GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND—Mr. T. SHAW

Solicitors' Examination Bill
- *c.* Intro., Sir A. Rollit; Read 1° *Mar* 20 [22] 788
- Read 2° *April* 9, 1686
- Order for 2R. negatived *April* 10 [23] 426
- Read 2° *April* 11, 113
- Com.; R.P. *April* 12, 306; *April* 13, 427
- Com., and Reported *April* 19, 955
- Read 3°, and passed *April* 23, 1203
- *l.* Read 1ª *April* 24, 1212
- Read 2ª *May* 1 [24] 17
- Com.; Reported, and Re-com. to Standing Com. *May* 4, 334
- Reported *May* 8, 577
- Amendts. reported *May* 31 [25] 4
- Read 3ª, with Amendts., and passed *June* 1, 161
- *c.* Lords Amendts. con., and agreed to *June* 11, 891
- *l.* Royal Assent *June* 18 [57° Vic. c. ix]

Solicitors' Government Trust Company
- *Dr. Grigsby*, Q. Major Rasch; A. Mr. Buxton *April* 3 [22] 1247; Q. Mr. Baldwin; A. Mr. Buxton *May* 3 [24] 225

Solicitors (Ireland) Bill
- *c.* Intro., Mr. Field; Read 1° *Mar* 20 [22] 787 [Dropped]

Solicitors (Ireland) (No. 2) Bill
- *c.* Intro., Mr. Carson; Read 1° *April* 3 [22] 1316 [Dropped]

South Kensington Museum
- *Antique Casts*, Qs. and Obs. Earl Cowper, Earl of Carlisle, Lord Playfair, Viscount Cranbrook, Earl of Rosebery *April* 27 [23] 1569; Qs. Mr. Darling, Sir H. Howorth; As. Mr. Acland *May* 3 [24] 227; Q. Sir A. Borthwick; A. Mr. Acland *May* 10, 762
- *Building*, Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 2 [26] 687
- *Façade*, Q. Mr. Webster; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *April* 6 [22] 1515; References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Mar* 30 [22] 1069
- *Science and Art Department* (see that title)

Southwark and Vauxhall Water Bill
l. Read 2^a *June* 29 [26] 517

SPAIN
Tariff, Q. Mr. Rt Shaw; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 21 [25] 1641
Trade Reports, Copies pres. *May* 8 [24] 692; *May* 10, 911

Sparkbrook Small Arms Factory (see under *Army*)

Speaker, The (RIGHT HON. ARTHUR WELLESLEY PEEL), *Warwick and Leamington*

Committees—Instructions to, &c.

Instr. to Committee ruled out of Order (*Local Government* (*Scotland*) *Bill*) *May* 22 [24] 1079

Instr. to Committee (*Finance Bill*) not covered by Res. in Com. of Ways and Means *May* 24 [24] 1218

The Instr. did not relate to the subject-matter of the Bill (*Dublin, Wicklow, &c., Railways Bill*), and if it invaded the rights of the Crown, that would be an additional reason for the Speaker to rule it out of Order *June* 15 [25] 1206

The Member could put down his Instr., which would not be prejudiced by the Res. to re-commit the Bill (*London Streets and Buildings Bill*) *June* 20 [25] 1546

The Instr. was out of Order, as the Com. had power to deal with the question *June* 25 [26] 116

The Instr. to insert a clause (*Barry Railway Bill*), that the proposed mineral line should be opened for passenger traffic, was out of Order *June* 29 [26] 561, 562

The Instr. for the division of the Bill (*Evicted Tenants* (*Ireland*) *Arbitration Bill*) into two parts was not in Order. An Instr. was necessary before a Bill could be divided; but the question whether such an Instr. could be moved depended upon the nature of the Bill, and whether the Instr. could properly perform the operation or not *July* 26 [27] 1028

West Ham was in the Police area. and an Instr. to bring it within the scope of the Bill (*Equalisation of Rates, London*) was in Order *Aug* 3 [28] 35

An Instr., the terms of which constituted a new Bill, and in which no indications were given to the Com. how the Instr. could be carried out, was out of Order *Aug* 3 [28] 40

Irish Land Committee Report and "The Times"—It was for the Chairman of Coms. to consult with his colleagues as to the best means of preventing reports being made public before they were officially presented to the House *Aug* 16 [28] 1257, 1258

[*cont.*

SPEAKER, THE—cont.

Committees—cont.

Appropriation Bill—Members could only deal with Appropriation *Aug* 24 [29] 423

Members

There was no official or Parliamentary recognition of the system of pairing. It was a custom that had grown up, owing to the convenience it afforded to Members, and it was fully recognised by all that it must be conducted upon the most strictly honourable principles, which had hitherto never been lost sight of by Members *April* 6 [22] 1519

Miscellaneous Rulings

[22] 1371, 1480, 1622, 1638, 1655; [23] 113, 306, 420, 424, 425, 643, 1605, 1612, 1613, 1673; [26] 321, 322, 463, 464, 671, 673, 1357, 1363, 1591; [27] 1381, 1567; [28] 604, 996; [29] 295, 418

Alleged Mistake in the Entry—The entry was "Amendts. made," and covered the fact of an old Clause being struck out *May* 31 [25] 4, 5

As to whether it was right to put down a Bill for 2R. which had not been printed, Mr. Speaker said it was for the House to judge in view of the circumstances under which it was put down *April* 4 [22] 1379

Division List—Correction [23] 824

Motion to refer a Bill to a Com. without notice *May* 9 [24] 745

Friday Evening Sitting—The Ballot following the adjournment would be taken on Monday *May* 10 [24] 812

Although 1 o'clock had passed it was still a Sitting of the 10th *May* 10 [24] 902

There was nothing unusual in keeping a Bill on the Paper *May* 21 [24] 914

Derby Day Adjournment—Private Members' right to move *May* 31 [25] 43

Members sitting on Committees in the House of Lords should be informed of Division in the Commons *June* 14 [25] 1069

Presenting Petitions—A Member should only state its general purport *June* 27 [26] 322

Private Members moving Government Bills *Aug* 1 [27] 1553

Clauses and Amendments ruled out of Order (*Local Government* (*Scotland*) *Bill*) [28] 410, 412, 418, 419, 422, 423, 487, 499, 578

Motion for Return—The form might be amended, and then taken unopposed *Aug* 3 [28] 34

Private Bills

Any point of Order should have been raised before the 2R. There was no reason why the Bill (*London Building Bye-Laws*)

[*cont.*

SPEAKER, THE—cont.

Private Bills—cont.

should not be introduced as a Private Bill. If the Bill raised a question of public policy, that was a question which should have been raised at the proper time *April* 2 [22] 1107

Questions

Under the Rules of the House a Member was responsible for the statements contained in a Question *April* 5 [22] 1452

The Question was only an argumentative way of bringing forward a matter having reference to a question other than the one under consideration, and was ruled out of Order *April* 9 [22] 1591

Alterations of questions at the Table *June* 5 [25] 417; *June* 12, 912

Reading from Letters—A statement was made, and the Member was seeking to rebut in the nature of a personal explanation *June* 11 [25] 796

A Member was entitled to ask for an inquiry into the points he mentioned *June* 15 [25] 1228

Notice of Questions *June* 18 [25] 1344

"Dangerous" was an expression of opinion *Aug* 16 [28] 1245

Questions put on the Paper were more convenient for Ministers *May* 1 [24] 23

There was no connection between the Question asked and the Question on the Paper *May* 1 [24] 40

As the case would be a subject of inquiry in a Court of Justice the Question should not be put *May* 3 [24] 208

The Member was not asking a question so much as conveying information *May* 3 [24] 227

Questions, reflecting on individuals, remaining on the Notice Paper *May* 10 [24] 812

"Official delegate of the Government Whips" should not have appeared on the Paper *June* 29 [26] 568

Rules and Order of Debate

The Motion was Home Rule for Scotland, and the Member was not entitled to go into the question of Home Rule for Wales *April* 3 [22] 1301

Adjournment of the House to discuss a matter of urgent public importance—Under Standing Order 17, a Motion on a subject of [*Agricultural Depression*] so wide a scope was not contemplated *April* 13 [23] 367

A Motion for leave to bring in a Bill having been made under Standing Order 16, The Speaker could not allow more than one speech in support of the Bill, and one against it *April* 12 [23] 225

The remarks would have been perfectly appropriate when the Speaker put the Main Question (*Standing Committee* (*Scotland*), *Res.*) after the Amendts. had been disposed of *April* 17 [23] 1591

[*cont.*

SPEAKER, THE—cont.

Rules and Order of Debate—cont.

The Amendt. was out of Order (*Standing Committee* (*Scotland*), *Res.*). It was not open to a Member to move an Amendt. re-opening the decision taken by the negativing of a previous Amendt. The Amendt. was in Order which proposed to alter the constitution of the Com. The Member (*Mr. Courtney*) was pursuing an inconvenient course by raising a discussion then upon the general question. After the Amendts. had been disposed of, the Member could re-open discussion on the Main Question *April* 20 [23] 997, 998, 999

The part of a Res. that anticipated a Bill before the House was out of Order *April* 27 [23] 1639

Second Reading discussion of a Bill with Money Clauses (*Labour Minister Bill*)—the provisions imposing a charge on the Revenue were printed in italics, and technically formed no part of the Bill *May* 2 [24] 185

Motion to discharge a Bill and Motion to adjourn the Debate *May* 2 [24] 198

The Bill was not down by Order (*Cambridge Corporation Bill*), and if there was any intention to take a Division, the Bill must stand over *May* 8 [24] 583

Motion to add a Member to a Com.—Questions raised upon the Motion *May* 23 [24] 1131

Introduction of Bills at the Time of Public Business — The Standing Order only allowed an explanatory statement on behalf of the different sections of Members (*Irish Education Bill*) *May* 4 [24] 199

Resolutions passed in Com. of Ways and Means should cover exactly all the provisions of the Bill (*Finance Bill*) subsequently introduced *May* 24 [24] 1201

Members personally interested in Bills—Motions to reject such Bills *May* 29 [24] 1519, 1520

Exhaustion of right to speak *May* 29 [24] 1523; *May* 30, 1670

Objections to undue discussion on a Bill *May* 30 [24] 1643

Motion for Adjournment of Debate in order to bring on another Bill *May* 30 [24] 1661, 1662

The Bill had been read a third time, and Amendts. could not be moved *June* 25 [26] 115

Motion for Re-committal (*Thames Conservancy Bill*), and a proposed Instruction.—The Motion for Re-com. could be taken as it was down by order, but the Instruction would have to stand over if objected to. The Motion for Re-com. and the Instruction could not be fixed for the same day *June* 28 [26] 391, 392, 394, 396, 397

The Amendt., the principle of which had been decided in Committee, was out of Order *July* 13 [26] 1590

[*cont.*

SPEAKER, THE—cont.

Rules and Order of Debate—cont.

The word "liable" could not be substituted for "accountable" (*Finance Bill*) unless both Amendts. were withdrawn and a new Amendt. substituted *July* 13 [26] 1610

The Amendt. being similar to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's, the Member should raise the discussion on that Amendt. In point of Order the Chancellor of the Exchequer would have precedence *July* 16 [27] 109

Lords Amendts. to Commons Amendts.—A general objection to the Bill could not be taken at that stage *July* 24 [27] 791

The clock was striking 12, and no discussion could take place upon the Order (*2R., Crofters' Holdings Bill*) *July* 30 [27] 1361

A Member could not move the clause standing in the name of another Member *Aug* 2 [27] 1605

Motion to add words to an Amendt. that had been withdrawn—The Member could bring up the words as a separate Amendt. *Aug* 2 [27] 1643

The Amendt. could not be moved, as the portion of the Bill to which the Amendt. referred had been passed. The Bill might be Re-com. on the 3R., *Aug* 6 [28] 120, 122

The Amendt. would more properly come in as a distinct Amendt. *Aug* 6 [28] 156, 157

As the evidence had not been published, any reference of what passed before that Com. was out of Order *Aug* 7 [28] 276

Two Speeches on the same side was "a disgraceful expression"—there was only an hour left, and it was reasonable that the Leader of the Opposition should speak. As to whether it would be possible to continue the debate after 12 o'clock, The Speaker did not like to take upon himself to set aside the Standing Order *Aug* 7 [28] 346, 347, 348

An Amendt. which raises an additional charge on the rates must be made in Com. and not on Report. The Bill could be Re-com. on the 3R., *Aug* 10 [28] 59, 592

The provisions of a Bill could not be discussed on Con. of the Lords Amendts. *Aug* 18 [28] 1489

It was not in Order to refer to any legislation of next Session on the *Appropriation Bill*, *Aug* 23 [29] 410

It was an ordinary Rule of Parliament that no attack could be made on the House of Lords on the 2R. of the *Appropriation Bill*, *Aug* 23 [29] 408, 409, 415

The Member could not move to omit an item on the *Appropriation Bill*, *Aug* 24 [29] 415

SPEAKER, THE—cont.

Supply

It was entirely optional whether the Government set up Supply again or not *April* 13 [23] 425

The Report had to be handed in to the Clerk before it could be considered. The House could not force the Government to take the Order *Aug* 20 [29] 124

To discuss the policy or action of the House of Lords upon a question of the reduction of the Vote for the Salaries of the Officers of the House of Lords was out of Order *Aug* 21 [29] 270

A Question might be asked, but detailed inquiry into the subject would be out of Order *Aug* 22 [29] 314

Titles of Bills

Period of Qualification and Elections Bill—The title should be in general terms and cover the general scope and purport, so as to include all the subject-matter comprised in the Bill. There was a Standing Order which enacted that the admissibility of Amendts. in Com. should be determined, not by the title of the Bill, but by its scope and purport and substance, and that Amendts. relative to the subject-matter of the Bill should be admitted without an Instruction; and if during Com. alterations were made beyond the title, then the title could be amended *May* 3 [24] 245

Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Arbitration Bill—A Bill had always two titles: the long title was the governing title of the Bill, and leave was given to bring in the measure according to the long title; the short title which appeared on the Order Book was to be regarded as a marginal note at the end of the Bill *July* 19 [27] 424

Speaker, The

Indisposition of, Mar 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 29, 30

SPENCER, EARL (First Lord of the Admiralty)

Ireland—Agrarian Crime [23] 1567, 1569

Malta Harbour, Unsanitary Condition of [26] 1177

Navy, State of [24] 434, 441, 444

Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [28] 654, 659, 670, 726, 740

SPENCER, Mr. Ernest, *West Bromwich*

Canal Tolls and Charges Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill, Con. [27] 1368, 1369

Convictions, Records of [22] 1001

Labour Minister Bill, Intro. [22] 452; 2R. [24] 170

Post Cards, Private [28] 556

[*cont.*

SPICER, Mr. A., *Monmouth, &c.*
County Councillors (Qualification of Women) Bill, Intro. [23] 747
Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 530
Hyde Park [27] 1127
Post Office Appointments in Wales [27] 1250
Prison Commission [25] 169

Spirit Duty—Budget Proposals (see under *Ways and Means*)

Spirits, Imported (see under *Trade, Board of*)

Sport Regulation Bill
c. Intro., Mr. A. C. Morton; Read 1° *Mar* 20 [22] 786
Order for 2R.; Debate adjourned *Mar* 30 1091
[Dropped]

Stage Carriage Licences
Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Mr. G. Russell *May* 10 [24] 777

Stage Play Licences
Q. Mr. Herbert Lewis; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 10 [24] 790

STAMFORD, Earl of
Dominica—Sir R. Hamilton's Report, Motion for an Address [22] 300, 301
Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, 2R. [26] 211

Stamp Duty (see under title *Customs, Excise, and Inland Revenue*)

Stamps (Contract of Messrs. De La Rue)
Copy pres. Aug 16 [28] 1355

Standing Committee (see under title *Parliament*)

STANHOPE, Earl
Bishopric of Bristol Act (1884) Amendment Bill, Report of Amendts. [26] 940
Education Code (1894), Res. [23] 822
Welsh Benefices, Sale of [25] 3

STANHOPE, Hon. P. J., *Burnley*
Factory Act, Breach of, at Preston [22] 447
Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, Com. [28] 800
Oakington Overseers [23] 1677

STANLEY OF ALDERLEY, Lord
Beaumaris Scheme [22] 1565
Education Code (1894), Res. [23] 818
Endowed Schools Act, &c. (Scheme for the County of Anglesey), Res. [23] 597
Income Tax on Lighthouses [26] 1171, 1175

India
Behar Cadastral Survey [23] 443
Salt Laws [23] 313, 320
"Sanchi Tope," General Maisey's Book on [23] 429

Licences in Lewis [26] 1169
Luccombe and Stoke-Pero, School Accommodation at, Res. [23] 431, 442
Pistols Bill, Pres. [22] 1565; 2R. [23] 957, 962; Com. [24] 3, 16, 17
Post Office Savings Banks—Advertising [26] 1283, 1284
Quarries Bill, 2R. [26] 1181

STANMORE, Lord
Uganda [25] 133, 157, 779; [29] 1

STANSFELD, Right Hon. J., *Halifax*
Cambridge Corporation Bill, Con. [24] 350
Indian Cantonment Regulations [23] 1082; [26] 1570

Starvation, &c., Deaths from
Address for Return *June* 7 [25] 668

Stationery Office
Contracts (see under title *Government Contracts*)
Government Reports, Documents, and Blue Books—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 18 [28] 1572, &c.
Publications, Returns, Qs. Mr. G. Bowles, Mr. J. Lowther; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 19 [23] 855
Vote for, Con. in Com.; Amendt. and Debate on *Printing Contracts and Trade Union Wages Aug* 18 [28] 1559

Statistical Abstract (Foreign Countries)
Copy pres. Mar 15 [22] 432

Statute Law Revision and Consolidation Bills
Res. to refer to Joint Com. *Mar* 15 [22] 300; *April* 2, 1216; *April* 9, 1565
Joint Committee of Lords and Commons, Nominated *April* 10 [23] 2; *April* 16, 591
Additional Members, &c. *April* 23 [23] 1072; *April* 25, 1384; *June* 22 [26] 4; *June* 26, 320; *July* 27 [27] 1116; *July* 31, 1494; *Aug* 3 [28] 116
Con. of the *Merchant Shipping Bill, April* 23 [23] 1072
Reports, July 20 [27] 536, 544; *July* 25 952

Statute Law Revision Bill
l. Pres., Lord Herschell; Read 1ª *July* 12 [26] 1447
Read 2ª *July* 16 [27] 2
Reported and Re-com. *Aug* 3 [28] 5
Com.; Amendts. reported; Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 6, 117
c. Read 1° *Aug* 10, 650
Read 2° *Aug* 13, 888
Con. in Com.; R.P. *Aug* 14, 1080
Con. in Com., and Reported *Aug* 16, 1350
As amended, Con. *Aug* 17, 1482
l. Commons Amendts. con., and agreed to *Aug* 21 [29] 149
Royal Assent *Aug* 25
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 56]

Steam Engines and Boilers (Persons in Charge) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. John Wilson (Durham); Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 454
[Dropped]

Steam Trawlers (Scotland) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Crombie; Read 1° *April* 27 [23] 1638
2R. deferred *May* 9 [24] 746; *May* 30, 1679
Withdrawn *June* 12 [25] 991
(For Questions see under SCOTLAND—*Fisheries*)

STERN, Mr. S. J., *Suffolk, Stowmarket*
Housing of the Working Classes Bill, Intro. [22] 459

STEVENSON, MR. F. S. (Parliamentary Charity Commissioner), *Suffolk, Eye*
Aliens and British Charities [25] 1215
Armenia, Troubles in [23] 210; [25] 921
Campden Trust [26] 946
Coventry Charities [28] 549
Daniel's Charity, Swanscombe [28] 142
Diversion of Charities [25] 27
East Bergholt Charity Lands [28] 476
Essex Charity Lands, Sale of [28] 449
Finance Bill, Com. [26] 368
Hume's Charity [25] 422
Kettering Charities [27] 802
Lancashire Charities [26] 692
Lincolnshire and Worcestershire Charities [25] 577
London Parochial Charities [28] 143
Lytham School Charity [28] 141
St. Katherine's Hospital [27] 1571
St. Paul's School [28] 1389
Secondary Schools — Assistant Masters [24] 592
Thames — Sale of an Eyot near Abingdon [24] 1400

STEVENSON, Mr. J. C., *South Shields*
Sale of Intoxicating Liquors on Sunday Bill, Intro. [23] 1327

STEWART, Sir M. J., *Kirkcudbright*
Business of the House [22] 1655; [24] 242, 243; [27] 287
Canadian Cattle Importation [24] 1622
Church of Scotland Bill [24] 608
Finance Bill, Com., *cl.* 1 [25] 93, 749, 987, 1109; *cl.* 29 [26] 467, 469; *cl.* 31, 602; Con., 1247
Indian Cotton Duties [22] 443
Killybegs Harbour [24] 1184
Local Government (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [24] 1076
Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [22] 1178; [23] 1024, 1594
Trade and Agriculture, Depression of—Amendt to Address in Answer to Queen's Speech [22] 118
Tuberculosis Commission, Report [27] 549
Ways and Means — Financial Statement, Com. [23] 551

Stipendiary Magistrates Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Storey; Read 1° *Aug* 21 [29] 276
[Dropped]

STOCK, Mr. J. H., *Liverpool, Walton*
Telegraph Service Examinations [24] 595

STOREY, Mr. S., *Sunderland*
British East Africa Company [29] 375
Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, Con. [28] 409
Chino-Japanese War—Neutral Vessels, &c. [28] 144
District and Parish Councils and Civil Servants [28] 1237
Manorial Rights and Poor Rates [24] 1006
Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, Com. [28] 863, 865
National Telephone Company [28] 1270
Parish Councils—Ballots [29] 12
Period of Qualification and Elections Bill, 2R. [24] 123, 124, 391
Personal Explanation—"Breaking a Pair" [24] 1192
Post Office Officials and District and Parish Councils [29] 25
Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Com. [24] 1101, 1102, 1107
Religious Opinions Prosecutions Bill, Intro. [23] 1068
Saxe-Coburg, Duke of (Annuity), Res. [23] 1061
Supply
  District and Parish Councils and Government Employés [27] 1302, 1304
  Nottingham Execution [28] 1454
  Rating of Government Property [28] 1407
  Uganda [25] 247, 248, 249

Storms

Harbours of Refuge on the East Coast of Yorkshire, Q. Mr. Holden; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 5 [22] 1445

STRACHEY, Mr. E., *Somerset, S.*

District and Parish Councils Elections—Local Government Board Rules [26] 1299

Finance Bill, Com., *cl.* 31 [26] 595, 609

Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, Intro. [22] 450; 2R. [24] 716

Weather Forecasts for Farmers [24] 1184

STRAFFORD, Earl of

Army Examinations [26] 1439

Medical Inspectors and Cholera Survey [26] 106

Straits Settlements—Military Contributions

Q. Sir J. Gorst; A. Mr. Buxton *Mar* 19 [22] 573; Q. Sir T. Sutherland; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 28 [26] 435; Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *July* 26 [27] 1015; Qs. Mr. W. Johnston, Mr. H. Heaton; As. Mr. Buxton *July* 27, 1117; Qs. Mr. W. Johnston, Mr. H. Heaton; As. Mr. Buxton *Aug* 3 [28] 6; *Aug* 10, 556; Qs. Mr. H. Heaton; As. Mr. Buxton *Aug* 13, 765; *Aug* 17, 1388; Qs. Mr. H. Heaton; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert, Mr. Woodall *Aug* 21 [29] 171

Strikes (see under *Labour Department*)

STUART, Mr. J., *Shoreditch, Hoxton*

Cambridge Corporation Bill, 3R. [24] 582

Chelsea Hospital for Women [29] 277

East London Water Bill [22] 1505; 2R., 1381, 1404, 1415

Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, 2R. [27] 834, 835; Con. [28] 68, 73, 108, 376, 387, 394, 398

Introduction of and Ballotting for Bills [22] 161

London County Council (General Powers) Bill, Con. [24] 697, 1508, 1516
  Alleged Mistake in the Entry [25] 5

London County Council (Tower Bridge Southern Approach) Bill, 2R. [22] 1227, 1229, 1238; Con. [25] 5

London Streets and Buildings Bill, Select Com. [22] 1428; Instr. to Com. [26] 943; Con. [27] 11, 12; Lords Amendts. [28] 1489

Metropolitan Police Court Business [25] 10; [26] 1078

Old Age Provident Pensions Bill, 2R. [22] 1371

Pauper Children [29] 277

[*cont.*

STUART, Mr. J.—*cont.*

Railways
  Chatham and Dover—Overcharges [22] 860
  Irchester Fatality [22] 902

Southwark and Vauxhall Water Bill, 2R. [23] 114

Standing Orders, Amendment of [28] 1221

Supply
  Printing Contracts—Trade Union Wages [28] 1568
  Public Education [29] 212
  Rating of Government Property [28] 1408

Thames Conservancy Bill, 2R. [22] 1422; Instr. to Com., 1425; Instr. to Com. [24] 1374; Con. [26] 391, 392, 394, 397, 1287, 1294

West Middlesex Water Bill, 2R. [22] 1425

Submarine Telegraph Company (see under *Post Office*)

Suez Canal Shares

Financial Statement, *April* 23 [23] 1192

References to, in Debate on the *Estimates*, *July* 6 [26] 1143, &c.

SULLIVAN, Mr. D., *Westmeath, S.*

Ireland
  Ballymahon Workhouse Doctor [25] 407
  Car Service at Dundalk Railway Station [25] 922
  Castletown Dispensary Residence [27] 162
  Dispensary District Vacancies [25] 1344
  Dublin Telegraphists [29] 153
  Evictions in County Westmeath [27] 547
  Lunatics, Removal of—Case of James Conniffe [23] 1410
  Magistrates, Catholic [28] 1227
  Migration Company and Cardinal Logue [29] 368
  Military Bands at Political Meetings [29] 158
  Mountjoy Prison Medical Officers [24] 782
  Police, Catholic [29] 13
  Printing Contracts in Westmeath [25] 9; [28] 436
  Stranorlar and Glenties Railway [22] 1102

SULLIVAN, Mr. T. D., *Donegal, W.*

Cruitt Harbour [27] 159

Gweedore District Disturbances [23] 19

Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 3R. [28] 316

Summary Jurisdiction Act, 1879 (Section 8)

Return to be printed *June* 22 [26] 22

Sunday Closing (Wales) Act (1881) Amendment Bill

c. Intro., Mr. H. Roberts; Read 1° *April* 11 [23] 171

[Dropped]

Superannuation Acts

Copies pres. Mar 12 [22] 128; *Mar* 29, 999; *April* 2, 1216; *April* 10 [23] 112; *April* 18, 811; *April* 26, 1552; *May* 21 [24] 995; *July* 17 [27] 276

SUPPLY

Army and *Navy Estimates* (see under those titles)

Civil Service (Supplementary Estimates), 1893-4.

Copy pres. *Mar* 12 [22] 128

Class I.

£31,526—Royal Palaces and Marlborough House, Com., *Mar* 29 [22] 963; Report *Mar* 30, 1092

£79,228—Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens, Com., *Mar* 29 [22] 971; Report *Mar* 30, 1092

£30,855—Houses of Parliament Buildings, Com., *Mar* 29 [22] 976; Report *Mar* 30, 1092

£31,200—Extension of Admiralty Buildings, Com. *Mar* 29 [22] 984; *Amendt.* (Mr. Bartley), 992; Withdrawn, 993; Original Question agreed to, 993; Report *Mar* 30, 1092

£59,278—Miscellaneous Legal Buildings, viz: County Courts, Metropolitan Police Courts, and Sheriff Court Houses, Scotland, Com., *Mar* 29 [22] 993; Report *Mar* 30, 1092

£28,614—Art and Science Buildings, Great Britain, Com., *Mar* 30 [22] 1064; *Amendt.* (Mr. Bartley), 1074; *Division*, 1080; Agreed to, 1081; Report *April* 2, 1216

£21,161—Diplomatic and Consular Buildings, and Maintenance of certain Cemeteries Abroad, Com., *Mar* 30 [22] 1081; *Amendt.* (Mr. Hanbury), 1086; *Division*, 1089; Agreed to, 1091; Report *April* 2, 1216

Class II.

£1,200—House of Commons Offices, Com., *Mar* 15 [22] 351; Report *Mar* 16, 555

£1,200—Home Office, Com., *Mar* 15 [22] 359; Report *Mar* 16, 555

£1,500—Colonial Office, Com., *Mar* 15 [22] 362; Report *Mar* 16, 555

£1,080—Local Government Board, Com., *Mar* 15 [22] 365; Report *Mar* 16, 555

£25,000—Law Charges, Com., *Mar* 15 [22] 366; Report *Mar* 16, 555

£10—County Courts, Com., *Mar* 15 [22] 372; Report *Mar* 16, 555

[*cont.*

SUPPLY—cont.

£1,300—Register House, Edinburgh, Com., *Mar* 15 [22] 377; Report *Mar* 16, 555

£207,864—Public Education, Com., *Mar* 15 [22] 378; Report *Mar* 16, 555

£16,000—Science and Art Department, Com., *Mar* 15 [22] 391; Report *Mar* 16, 555

Class V.

£27,500—Expenses of Her Majesty's Embassies and Missions Abroad, Com., *Mar* 15 [22] 391; *Division*, 405; Report *Mar* 16, 555

£88,567—Colonial Services and South African Charges, Com., *Mar* 15 [22] 405; *Division*, 429; Report *Mar* 16, 555

Class VI.

£6,400—Superannuations and Retired Allowances, Com., *Mar* 15 [22] 429; Report *Mar* 16, 555

Class VII.

£4,500—Temporary Commissions, Com., *Mar* 15 [22] 429; Report *Mar* 16, 555

Civil Service Excesses, 1892-3.

Copy pres. *Mar* 16 [22] 556

£685 14s.—Civil Service Excesses, 1892-3, Com., *Mar* 20 [22] 784; Report *Mar* 21, 851

Votes on Account, 1894-5.

Estimate pres. *May* 21 [24] 995

£4,199,768—Com., *Mar* 21 [22] 789
Amendt. (Mr. J. G. Lawson), 803; Withdrawn
Amendt. (Mr. A. C. Morton), 835; Withdrawn
Amendt. (Mr. Weir), 847; Withdrawn; Original Question agreed to; Report *Mar* 22, 880

£4,897,350—Com. *May* 25 [24] 1286; *Amendts.* (Mr. A. C. Morton's), 1290; Withdrawn; (Mr. Lough's), 1298; Withdrawn; (Mr. A. C. Morton's), 1325; Withdrawn; Debate adjourned
Debate resumed *May* 29, 1611; Question put, and agreed to

£3,583,150—Com., *July* 30 [27] 1273; *Amendts.* (Sir A. Rollit's), 1277; Withdrawn; (Mr. Bartley's), 1291; *Division*, 1298; (Comdr. Bethell's), 1310; Withdrawn; (Mr. Curzon's), 1351; Withdrawn; Original Question agreed to; Report *July* 31, 1447; *Amendt.* (Colonel H. Vincent's), 1484; Negatived; Vote agreed to

[*cont.*

SUPPLY—cont.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS, 1894-5.

Additional Estimates—Tralee and Dingle Railway, Copy pres. *May* 9 [24] 748

Memorandum, Copy pres. *Mar* 12 [22] 128

CLASS I.—PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS.

£314,900—Revenue Department Buildings, Com. *May* 21 [24] 924; *Amendts.* (Sir R. Temple's), 939; *Division*, 948; (Mr. Hanbury's), 952; *Division*, 954; Original Question agreed to; Report *May* 24, 1252

£187,975—Public Buildings in Great Britain, Com. *May* 21 [24] 954; *Amendt.* (Mr. G. Bowles's), 971; Withdrawn; Original Question agreed to; Report *May* 24, 1254

£185,210—Surveys of the United Kingdom, Com., *May* 21 [24] 979; Report *May* 24, 1254

£2,500—Tralee and Dingle Railway, Com. *June* 20 [25] 1546; Report *June* 21, 1717

£11,564—Harbours and Lighthouses, Com. *Aug* 17 [28] 1392; Report *Aug* 21 [29] 265

£21,800—Peterhead Harbour, Com. *Aug* 17 [28] 1396; *Amendt.* (Mr. Weir), 1396; Withdrawn; Vote agreed to; Report *Aug* 22 [29] 337

£137,482—Rating of Government Property, Com. *Aug* 17 [28] 1397; *Amendt.* (Mr. Pickersgill), 1400; Withdrawn; Vote agreed to; Report *Aug* 22 [29] 357

£109,149—Public Works and Buildings, Ireland, Com. *Aug* 17 [28] 1409; Report *Aug* 22 [29] 337

£32,778—Railways, Ireland, Com. *Aug* 17 [28] 1420; Report *Aug* 22 [29] 337

CLASS II.—SALARIES AND EXPENSES OF CIVIL DEPARTMENTS.

ENGLAND.

£22,595—House of Lords Offices, Com. *Aug* 17 [28] 1423; *Amendt.* (Mr. T.M. Healy), 1424; *Divisions*; Amendt. negatived; Vote carried; Report *Aug* 21 [29] 269

£28,133—House of Commons Offices, Com. *Aug* 17 [28] 1431; Report *Aug* 21 [29] 275

SUPPLY—cont.

£48,476—Treasury and Subordinate Departments, Com. *Aug* 17 [28] 1433; Report *Aug* 21 [29] 275

£60,863—Home Department and Subordinate Offices, Com. *Aug* 17 [28] 1434; *Amendt.* (Mr. Ballantine), 1449; Withdrawn; *Amendt.* (Mr. B. Roberts), 1457; Withdrawn; Vote agreed to; Report *Aug* 21 [29] 275

£40,696—Foreign Office, Com. *Aug* 17 [28] 1459; Report *Aug* 22 [29] 339

£7,528—Privy Council Office, Com. *Aug* 17 [28] 1481; Report *Aug* 22 [29] 339

£23,380—Charity Commission
£22,071—Civil Service Commission
£34,444—Exchequer and Audit Department
£4,186—Friendly Societies Registry
£9,219—Lunacy Commission
£84—Mint, including Coinage
£7,452—National Debt Office, Com. *Aug* 17 [28] 1482; Report *Aug* 21 [29] 275

£12,017—Public Record Office
£5,659—Public Works Loan Commission, Com. *Aug* 17 [28] 1482; Report *Aug* 22 [29] 341

£22,460—Colonial Office, Com. *Aug* 18 [28] 1490; Report *Aug* 22 [29] 341

£100,757—Board of Trade, Com. *Aug* 18 [28] 1510; *Amendt.* (Mr. E. H. Bayley), 1538; Withdrawn; Vote agreed to; Report *Aug* 22 [29] 341

£21,000—Mercantile Marine Fund (Grant in Aid)
£20—Bankruptcy Department, Board of Trade
£30,510—Board of Agriculture, Com. *Aug* 18 [28] 1545; Report *Aug* 21 [29] 275

£90,145—Local Government Board, Com. *Aug* 18 [28] 1554; Report *Aug* 22 [29] 1554

£272,505—Stationery Office—Reports of *Parliamentary Debates*, &c., Com. *Aug* 18 [28] 1558; *Amendt.* (Mr. Lough), 1564; Withdrawn; Vote agreed to; Report *Aug* 22 [29] 34

£11,743—Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues, &c., Office, Com. *Aug* 18 [28] 1581; Report *Aug* 21 [29] 275

£28,566—Works and Public Buildings Office, Com. *Aug* 18 [28] 1588; Report *Aug* 22 [29] 341

[cont.

SUPPLY—cont.

£16,000—Secret Service, Com. *Aug* 18 [28] 1588; Report *Aug* 21 [29] 276

£24,674—Registrar General of Births, &c., Com. *Aug* 20 [29] 31; *Amendt.* (Mr. Lloyd-George), 37; Withdrawn; Vote agreed to; Report *Aug* 22, 318; *Amendt.* (Mr. Lloyd-George), 323; Negatived; Res. agreed to

IRELAND.

£27,715—Chief Secretary's Offices, Com. *June* 20 [25] 1550; Report *June* 21, 1717

£2,764—Lord Lieutenant's Household, Com. *June* 20 [25] 1547; *Amendt.* (Mr. Arnold-Forster), 1560; *Division*, 1607; Original Question put, and agreed to; Report *June* 21, 1717

£2,264—Lord Lieutenant's Household

£939—Charitable Bequests Office

£3,007—Public Record Office

£19,770—Public Works Office; Com. *Aug* 18 [28] 1589; Report *Aug* 21 [29] 276

£8,637—Registrar General's Office, Com. *Aug* 18 [28] 1589; Report *Aug* 22 [29] 341

£5,171—Valuation and Boundary Survey, Com. *Aug* 18 [28] 1589; Report *Aug* 21 [29] 276

£87,081—Local Government Board, Com. *Aug* 20 [29] 65; Report *Aug* 22, 324

SCOTLAND.

£3,155—Lunacy Commission

£2,470—Registrar General's Office

£4,754—Board of Supervision for Relief of Poor, &c., Com. *Aug* 18 [28] 1589; Report *Aug* 21 [29] 276

£6,915—Secretary's Office, Com. *Aug* 20 [29] 45; Report *Aug* 22, 324

£16,739—Fishery Board, Com. *Aug* 20 [29] 53; Report *Aug* 22, 324

CLASS III.—LAW AND JUSTICE.

ENGLAND.

£25,782—Miscellaneous Legal Expenses (including £3,000, Supplementary)

£177,874—Supreme Court of Judicature

£3,771—Land Registry

£18,062—County Courts

£2,748—Police Courts, London and Sheerness, Com. *Aug* 18 [28] 1589; Report *Aug* 21 [29] 276

SUPPLY—cont.

£34,435—Metropolitan Police, &c., Com. *Aug* 18 [28] 1590; *Amendt.* (Captain Norton), 1595; Withdrawn; Vote agreed to; Report *Aug* 21 [29] 276

£361,139—Prisons, England and the Colonies

£137,117—Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Com. *Aug* 18 [28] 1598; Report *Aug* 22 [29] 341

£18,903—Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum, Com. *Aug* 18 [28] 1598; Report *Aug* 21 [29] 276

£28,386—Law Charges, Com. *Aug* 20 [29] 78; Report *Aug* 22, 324

IRELAND.

£37,641—Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions, Com. *Aug* 20 [29] 65; Report *Aug* 22, 324

£65,800—Supreme Court of Judicature

£34,662—Land Commission

£63,879—County Court Officers, &c.

£59,222—Dublin Metropolitan Police

£668,249—Constabulary

£71,021—Prisons

£56,095—Reformatory and Industrial Schools

£3,822—Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum. Com. *Aug* 20 [29] 71, 73; Report *Aug* 22, 324

SCOTLAND.

£44,998—Law Charges and Courts of Law

£22,711—Register House, Edinburgh

£51,700—Prisons, Com. *Aug* 18 [28] 1598; Report *Aug* 21 [29] 276

£3,945—Crofters' Commission, Com. *Aug* 20 [29] 85; Report *Aug* 22, 324

CLASS IV.—EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ART.

ENGLAND.

£3,155,589—Public Education, Com. *Aug* 20 [29] 89; Report *Aug* 21, 180; *Amendt.* (Viscount Cranborne), 196; Negatived; Res. agreed to

£361,122—Science and Art Department, Com. *Aug* 20 [29] 90; Report *Aug* 21, 217

£80,279—British Museum

£11,368—National Gallery

£825—National Portrait Gallery

£14,247—Scientific Investigation, &c.

SUPPLY—cont,
£50,094—Universities and Colleges and Intermediate Education in Wales
£5—London University, Com. *Aug* 20 [29] 96, 98; Report *Aug* 21, 217, 218, 230

IRELAND.
£499,792—Public Education, Com. *Aug* 20 [29] 73; Report *Aug* 21, 241; *Amendt.* (Mr. Knox), 243; Withdrawn; Res. agreed to
£605—Endowed Schools Commissioners
£1,200—National Gallery
£14,035—Pauper Lunatics
£1,959—Hospitals and Charities, Com. *Aug* 20 [29] 73, 74, 77; Report *Aug* 21, 252

SCOTLAND.
£485,449—Public Education
£2,150—National Gallery; Com. *Aug* 20 [29] 98; Report *Aug* 21, 230, 241

CLASS V.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL SERVICES
£201,235—Diplomatic and Consular Service
£213—Slave Trade
£79,675—Colonial Service, including South Africa
£29,100—Subsidies to Telegraph Companies
£45,000—Uganda (Supplementary)
£35,000—British Central Africa, Com. *Aug* 20 [29] 98, 99, 101; Report *Aug* 22, 324, 330, 332, 333, 337
£50,000—Uganda, Com. *June* 1 [25] 181; *Division*; Report *Aug* 21 [29] 276

CLASS VI.—NON-EFFECTIVE AND CHARITABLE SERVICE
£231,454—Superannuation and Retired Allowances
£4,300—Merchant Seamen's Fund Pensions
£21,713—Savings Banks and Friendly Societies Deficiency
£411,125—Miscellaneous Charitable and other Allowances, Com. *Aug* 20 [29] 102; Report *Aug* 22, 337

IRELAND.
£14,035—Pauper Lunatics
£1,959—Hospitals and Charities, Com. *Aug* 20 [29] 77, 78; Report *Aug* 21, 252

CLASS VII.—MISCELLANEOUS.
£21,959—Temporary Commissions, &c., Com. *Aug* 20 [29] 102; Report *Aug* 22, 337
[*cont.*

SUPPLY—cont.
£1,991—Miscellaneous Expenses
£15,000—Diseases of Animals
£21,000—Highlands and Islands—Public Works, &c.
£26,948—Local Loans Fund, Repayment
£906—Civil Contingencies Fund
£1,000—Hobart (Tasmania) Exhibition, Com. *Aug* 20 [29] 114, 115; Report *Aug* 22, 337

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS
£651,915—Customs
£1,345,539—Inland Revenue, Com. *Aug* 20 [29] 116; Report *Aug* 22, 337
£5,287,785—Post Office
£558,624—Post Office Packet Service
£1,676,930—Post Office Telegraphs, Com. *Aug* 20 [29] 116, 121; Report *Aug* 21, 258, 263

Supply
Army and Navy Questions (see under those titles)
Mercantile Marine Expenditure, Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Mr. Mundella *Mar* 13 [22] 139
Scotch Votes, Qs. Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Hozier, Mr. Tomlinson; As. Sir W. Harcourt *Aug* 21 [29] 172
Speaker—Rulings (see under SPEAKER, The)
Uganda and British Central Africa Vote, Qs. Sir C. Dilke, Mr. Buchanan; As. Sir E. Grey *Aug* 20 [29] 26
Uganda Vote, Q. Sir C. Dilke; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 7 [24] 487; Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 5 [26] 959
Unexpended Balances, Q. Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 25 [24] 1273; Q. Mr. Forwood; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 15 [25] 1353
Vote on Account, Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir W. Harcourt *Mar* 15 [22] 349; Q. Mr. T. W. Russell; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 10 [24] 814

Supreme Court (Officers) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Asquith; Read 1° *June* 28 [26] 515
Withdrawn *July* 18 [27] 332

Supreme Court of Judicature (Procedure) Bill
l. Pres., Lord Herschell; Read 1ª *Mar* 13 [22] 137
Read 2ª *Mar* 15, 297
Com.; Re-com. to Standing Com. *April* 19 [23] 817
Reported from Standing Com. *May* 1 [24] 18
Amendts. reported *May* 4, 334
Read 3ª, and passed *May* 10, 749
c. Read 1° *May* 28, 1503
2R. deferred *June* 4 [25] 386
Read 2° *June* 5, 492
[*cont.*

Supreme Court of Judicature (*Procedure*) *Bill* —cont.
Con. in Com. *June* 11, 887
Con. in Com., and Reported *June* 18, 1436
As amended, Con.; Read 3°, and passed *June* 19, 1544
l. Returned from the Commons with Amendts. *June* 21, 1617
Commons Amendts. con., and agreed to *June* 25 [26] 114
Royal Assent *July* 3
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 16]

Supreme Court of Judicature (*Procedure*) *Bill*
Q. Mr. Paul; A. Mr. J. B. Balfour *June* 4 [25] 292

Surveyors (Ireland) Bill
c. Motion for Leave, Mr. J. Morley; Read 1° *May* 3 [24] 248
Withdrawn *July* 18 [27] 331

Surveys
Vote for, Con. in Com. *May* 21 [24] 979

Sussex Parliamentary Electors' Return
Qs. Mr. H. Johnstone; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 17 [23] 621

SUTHERLAND, Mr. A., *Sutherland*
Supply—Deer Forest Commission, &c. [22] 842

SUTHERLAND, Sir T., *Greenock*
Japan, New Treaty with [28] 1239
Straits Settlements—Military Contributions [26] 435
Thames Conservancy Bill, Instr. to Com. [24] 1368; Con. [26] 1289, 1294, 1447, 1453, 1460, 1462

SWANSEA, Lord
Queen's Speech, Address in Answer to [22] 4

SWAZILAND (*see under* AFRICA)

SWEETMAN, Mr. J., *Wicklow, E.*
Dublin Telegraphists [28] 11, 250, 466
"Hondeklip," Wreck of the [22] 149
Supply—Wicklow Harbour [27] 1287
Wicklow County Officials' Residences [25] 905

Swine Fever (see under *Agriculture, Board of*)

SWITZERLAND
Inebriates, Treatment of, Q. Mr. Lees Knowles; A. Sir E. Grey *Mar* 15 [22] 333

TALBOT, Mr. J. G., *Oxford University*
Anarchists, Treatment of [28] 1245
Anderby Church School, Lincolnshire [27] 1261
Butley School, Suffolk [28] 1244
Education Code [23] 217, 218
Education Grants for Rural Districts [27] 560; [28] 996
Established Church (Wales) Bill, Motion for Leave [23] 1691
Estate Duty and Service Annuities [25] 35
Feckenham National School [27] 661
Fishery Committees—Payment of Fishermen [25] 134
Gymnastic Apparatus for Rural Schools [25] 804
Hartshill Schoolroom [28] 1244
India—Staff Corps Promotions [22] 1099
Indian Opium Commission Report [28] 31
Naval Tenders [26] 573
North Hagbourne Church of England Schools [26] 1186
Pauper District Schools — Lady Inspectors [28] 31
Secondary Education Commission [22] 1583
Supply
  Elementary Education—Requirements of the Education Department [22] 378
  King's College [29] 229
  Public Education [29] 202
Welsh Cathedrals [25] 803
West London School District [28] 31
Wetherby Church Schools [29] 154
Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association [29] 155

Tangier, British Warships at
Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *June* 14 [25] 1095

TANNER, Dr. C. K., *Cork Co., Mid*
Introduction of and Ballotting for Bills [22] 136
Ireland
  Licence Transfers—Mr. Hegarty [23] 848
  Small Holdings, Res. [23] 419
Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Con. [25] 542, 543
Public Libraries (Scotland) Bill, Com. [24] 199
Quarter Sessions Bill, 2R. [23] 1325

TAYLOR, Mr. F., *Norfolk, S.*
Local Government Act—Parochial Officials [22] 328
School Exemptions [29] 168

Teachers (see under *Education*)
  Scotch and Irish Questions (see under titles SCOTLAND and IRELAND)

Teachers' Registration Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Macdonald; Read 1° *April* 3 [22] 1316
[Dropped]

Technical Education (see under *Education*)

TEHERAN
  Sir Mortimer Durand—References to, in Debate on *Supply, July* 30 [27] 1340, &c.

Telegraphs (see under *Post Office*)

Telephones (see under *Post Office*)

TEMPLE, Sir R., *Surrey, Kingston*
  Abbey School, Buckfast [29] 163
  Aleppo—Barker Case [29] 162
  Army (Annual) Bill, Com. [23] 565
  Army Estimates
    Clothing [26] 988
    Imperial Defence Loan [26] 1143, 1145
    Medical Department [26] 831, 833
    Military Education [26] 1121
    Militia [26] 851
    Warlike and other Stores [26] 1012
    War Office Salaries, &c. [27] 297
    Works, Buildings, &c. [26] 1084, 1086
  Balfour, Jabez [29] 26
  Board of Agriculture—Travelling Inspectors [28] 145
  Business of the House [28] 1152
  Chino-Japanese War—Commercial Transactions [29] 369
  Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill, 2R. [29] 406
  Education Code (1894) [23] 741, 742, 743, 954; [29] 164
  Elementary Education (Exemption from School Attendance) Bill, Intro. [22] 456; 2R. [23] 168
  Elementary Teachers' Superannuation [28] 251
  Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, Instr. to Com. [28] 38, 79, 80, 96, 98, 193, 194, 225; Con., 781
  Established Church (Wales) Bill, Motion for Leave [23] 1739
  Evening Schools Code [23] 1294; Res. [24] 1496, 1634
  Finance Bill, Instr. to Com. [24] 1217; Com., *cl.* 2 [25] 497; *cl.* 5, 932, 933, 984, 989, 1158; *cl.* 7, 1512; *cl.* 15 [26] 67, 68; *cl.* 16, 94, 139; *cl.* 17, 191; *cl.* 37, 619; Con., 1238, 1277, 1338, 1339, 1364, 1397, 1400, 1527, 1532, 1578, 1613, 1616, 1634; [27] 82, 114; 3R., 230
[*cont.*

TEMPLE, Sir R.—*cont.*
  Franco-Siamese Question—Papers, &c. [22] 1060, 1063; [28] 569
  General Register Office [27] 1012
  Hereford—St. James's National School [23] 631
  India
    Contagious Diseases [23] 1083
    Forest Service Department [27] 1400
    Government of, Res. [28] 1121, 1124, 1127
    Pensions and the Estate Duty [26] 222
    Railway Construction [28] 1385
  Indian Railway Companies Bill, Motion for Leave [23] 1066
  Mutiny Bill [22] 856
  Navy Estimates—Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, &c.—Personnel [23] 268
  Non-Board Schools—Improvements, Res. [22] 958
  Ottawa Conference [25] 923
  Pistols and Revolvers Accidents, Res. [22] 1043
  Slaves, Freed [23] 861
  Small Schools, Grants to [29] 163
  Supply
    African Affairs, &c. [29] 340
    Art and Science Buildings [22] 1065, 1066, 1080, 1081
    British East Africa Company, &c. [27] 1328, 1331, 1332
    Franco-Siamese Question [22] 834; [24] 1322; [28] 1478
    Houses of Parliament [22] 979, 984
    Indian Opium Commission [29] 111
    Legation and Consular Buildings in China, Indian Contribution to [22] 1085
    Pamirs, &c. [27] 1356
    Public Education [29] 211
    Public Offices Sanitary Improvements [24] 966
    Rating of Government Property [27] 1282, 1283
    Revenue Department Buildings [24] 938, 939, 948
    Royal Palaces [22] 970
    Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens [22] 972, 973
    Slave Trade [29] 327, 331
    Swaziland [28] 1506, 1509
    Transvaal, British Subjects in, &c. [27] 1465, 1467, 1474
    Uganda [22] 395, 397
    Voluntary Schools, &c. [22] 815
  Teachers' Superannuation [23] 1447
  Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Com. [27] 1071, 1072, 1074, 1179
  Thames Conservancy Bill, 2R. [22] 1423; Instr. to Com. [24] 1386, 1387
  Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 1198, 1288
  Worcestershire, Cotteridge School [22] 446
  Zanzibar Protectorate [23] 1077

Temporary Laws
  Paper laid upon the Table *July* 10 [26] 1392

Tenant Farmers' Sporting Rights Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Luttrell; Read 1° *Mar* 20 [22] 787
[Dropped]

Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill
c. Motion for Leave (Mr. J. Morley) *April* 19 [23] 865; Read 1° 941
  2R. deferred *April* 23, 1202
  2R.; Debate adjourned *July* 19 [27] 433; *July* 20, 563
  Read 2° *July* 23, 673
  Con. in Com. *July* 26 [27] 1029
    Cl. 1; Amendts.; (Mr. Hanbury's), 1032; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Brodrick's), 1050; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Hanbury's), 1062; Negatived; (Mr. W. Kenny's), 1065; Withdrawn; (Mr. Barton's), 1068; Negatived; (Mr. Hanbury's), 1070; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Barton's), 1085; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Barton's), 1103; R.P.
    Debate resumed on Mr. Barton's Amendt. *July* 27, 1146; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. W. Kenny's), 1156; *Division*; Negatived; (Viscount Wolmer's), 1159; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Barton's), 1164; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Hanbury's), 1174; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Barton's), 1181; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. Hanbury's), 1199; Amendt. to the proposed Amendt.; (Mr. J. Chamberlain), 1212; Agreed to; Amendt. to the proposed Amendt.; (Mr. Barton), 1215; Agreed to; *Division* on Mr. Hanbury's Amendt.; Negatived; R.P.
    Debate resumed *Aug* 1 [27] 1497; Amendts.; (Mr. J. Morley's), 1498; Agreed to; (Mr. Sexton's), 1506; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. J. Morley's), 1533; Agreed to; (Sir R. T. Reid's), 1535; Agreed to; Clause, as amended, agreed to
    Cl. 2; Amendts.; (Mr. Sexton's), 1536; Withdrawn; (Dr. Kenny's), 1541; Agreed to; (Mr. J. Morley's) 1541; Agreed to
    Cl. 3; Amendts.; (Sir R. T. Reid's), 1541; Agreed to; (Mr. J. Morley's), 1542; Amendt. to the proposed Amendt.; (Mr. Clancy), 1542; *Division*, 1545; Mr. J. Morley's Amendt. agreed to; (Mr. Hayden's), 1546; Withdrawn; (Mr. Sexton's), 1550; Withdrawn; Clause, as amended, agreed to
    Cl. 4; Amendts.; (Sir R. T. Reid's), 1552; Agreed to; (Mr. Clancy's), 1552; R.P.
    Debate resumed *Aug* 2 [27] 1586; Mr. Clancy's Amendt. withdrawn; Amendts.; (Mr. J. Morley's), 1586; Agreed to; (Mr. Clancy's) 1587; Withdrawn; (Mr. Clancy's), 1592; *Division*; Negatived; Clause, as amended, agreed to
    Cl. 5; Amendts.; (Mr. J. Morley's), 1594; Agreed to; Clause, as amended, agreed to
    Cl. 6; Amendts.; (Mr. J. Morley's), 1594; Agreed to; (Dr. Kenny's), 1595; Withdrawn; Clause, as amended, agreed to

[*cont.*

Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill—cont.
    Cl. 7; Amendts.; (Mr. J. Morley's), 1597; Withdrawn; Clause agreed to
    Cl. 8; Amendts.; (Sir A. Hayter's), 1600; Title amended; Clause, as amended, agreed to
    New Clauses; (Sir R. T. Reid's), 1600; Amendt.; (Mr. T. M. Healy's), 1601; Withdrawn; Clause agreed to; (Mr. Clancy's), 1603; Withdrawn; Amendt.; (Mr. J. Morley's), 1605; Agreed to; Bill reported
  As amended, con. *Aug* 6 [28] 149
    New Clauses (Mr. J. Morley's), 149; Agreed to; (Mr. J. Morley's), 152; Amendt. (Sir R. T. Reid's), 157; Clause, as amended, agreed to; (Mr. T. M. Healy's), 157
    Amendts. (Mr. J. Morley's), 158, 159, 160; Agreed to; (Mr. Sexton's), 161; Negatived; (Sir R. T. Reid's), 163; Withdrawn; (Mr. J. Morley's), 165; Amendts. to the proposed Amendt. (Mr. T. M. Healy's), 166; Negatived; (Mr. Sexton's), 169; *Division*; Negatived; (Mr. T. M. Healy's), 171; Negatived; (Mr. Sexton's), 172; Negatived; (Mr. Hayden's), 174; *Division*; Negatived; Mr. Morley's Amendt. agreed to; Amendts. (Mr. J. Morley's), 178; Agreed to; (Mr. T. M. Healy's), 178; Negatived
  Third Reading *Aug* 7 [28] 269; Amendt. to leave out "now," and add "upon this day three months" (Mr. Brodrick); *Division*: Ayes 199; Noes 167; Read 3°, and passed
l. Read 1ª *Aug* 7 [28] 237
  Second Reading *Aug* 13 [28] 654; Motion to leave out "now" and add "this day three months" (Lord Balfour of Burleigh); Debate adjourned
    Debate resumed *Aug* 14 [28] 893; *Division*: Ayes 30; Noes 249

Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill
  Qs. Mr. Hayden, Mr. T. W. Russell; As. Mr. J. Morley *April* 24 [23] 1228; Qs. Sir D. Macfarlane, Mr. J. Redmond; As. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 27 [27] 1144; Q. Mr. Ross; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 6 [28] 136; Qs. Mr. Maguire, Colonel Nolan; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 16, 1255; Qs. Mr. Justin M'Carthy, Mr. Barton, Mr. Cobb, Mr. Macartney; As. Mr. J. Morley, Sir W. Harcourt *Aug* 17, 1391
  Amounts Payable in respect of the Interests Affected, Qs. Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Dane; As. Mr. J. Morley *May* 1 [24] 38
  Evicted Tenancies, Q. Mr. Fisher; A. Mr. J. Morley *July* 31 [27] 1403
  Eviction of John Mackey, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 25 [24] 1270
  Father Humphreys, Q. Mr. Dane; A. Mr. J. Morley *May* 10 [24] 802
  Procedure, Res. and Debate (Sir W. Harcourt) *July* 31 [27] 1409
  Sub-Tenants, &c., Qs. Mr. W. Kenny, Mr. T. W. Russell; As. Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 7 [28] 248

Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) [Guarantee and Expenses]
Com.; R.P. *July* 26 [27] 1105
Con. in Com. *July* 27, 1220; *July* 31, 1494
Res. reported *Aug* 1, 1497

Teneriffe—Trade Reports
Copy pres. May 8 [24] 692

TEYNHAM, Lord
Marking of Foreign and Colonial Produce—Select Com. [23] 449

Thames and Severn Canal
Qs. Mr. H. L. W. Lawson, Mr. Bartley; As. Mr. Mundella *May* 10 [24] 804; Qs. Mr. B. Jones, Mr. Bartley; As. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 14 [28] 979

Thames Conservancy Bill
c. Read 2° *April* 5 [22] 1419
Instr. to Com. (Sir T. Sutherland); Division *May* 28 [24] 1368, 1387
As amended, Con.; Debate adjourned *June* 28 [26] 391; *June* 29, 560; *July* 10, 1287
Debate resumed; Read 3°, and passed *July* 12, 1447
l. Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 7 [28] 232

Thames Conservancy Bill
Q. Sir T. Sutherland; A. Mr. Speaker *July* 9 [26] 1186

Thames—Sale of an Eyot near Abingdon
Q. Mr. Lough; A. Mr. F. S. Stevenson *May* 28 [24] 1399

Thames Shipbuilding Firms (see under *Navy—Contracts*)

THOMAS, Mr. Abel, *Carmarthen, E.*
Established Church (Wales) Bill, Motion for Leave [23] 1531

THOMAS, Mr. Alfred, *Glamorgan, E.*
Established Church (Wales) Bill, Motion for Leave [23] 1522

THOMAS, Mr. D. A., *Merthyr Tydvil*
Admiralty Establishments—Working Hours [26] 955; [28] 22
Boxing Contest at Aberdare [25] 177
Celfynydd Colliery Explosion [28] 19
Coal Dust Commission [26] 955; [27] 1007
Colliery Explosion in Wales [26] 136; [27] 176
Department of Mines [27] 800
[*cont.*

THOMAS, Mr. D. A.—*cont.*
Established Church (Wales) Bill [26] 956; Motion for Leave [23] 1755
Grocers' Licence Abolition Bill, Intro. [22] 1504
Inspectors of Mines [27] 176, 1570
Lordship of Appeal—Appointment [26] 1486
Metalliferous Mines Inspectors [28] 14
Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, Qs. [24] 799; [27] 792; Intro., 332; Com. [28] 809, 813, 814, 816, 823, 824, 825, 830, 832, 834, 1005, 1030
Mining Fatalities—Inquiries [27] 800
Poet Laureateship [27] 178
Postal Facilities [28] 23
Revenues of the Welsh Church [24] 216, 589, 1280
River Ffrwd, Drowning in [28] 578
Woolwich Working Hours [24] 792

THORBURN, Mr. W., *Peebles and Selkirk*
Church of Scotland Reference Bill, Intro. [22] 458
Disestablishment [22] 696
Finance Bill, Com. [26] 33
Local Government (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [24] 1077
Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [22] 1206; [23] 1594

THORNTON, Mr. P. M., *Clapham*
Accountant General's Department [26] 952; [28] 265
Army Estimates—War Office Clerks [27] 297
Business of the House [27] 1271
Clarence Lanes, Roehampton [23] 1427
Glove Fight near Clapham [24] 600
Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, Com. [28] 401
Landseer's Picture—"A Dialogue" at Waterloo [29] 22
London County Council (Tower Bridge Southern Approach) Bill, 2R. [22] 1238
Supply
  Holyrood Palace [22] 965
  Home Office Clerks [28] 1439
  Linlithgow Palace [22] 972
Vestry Meetings [23] 1446

"Times" Publication of Particulars of the Irish Land Committee
Qs. Mr. Sexton, Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Mr. Speaker, Mr. J. Morley *Aug* 16 [28] 1257; Obs. Mr. Macartney, Mr. Sexton *Aug* 20 [29] 28

Tithe Rent-Charge and the Welsh Disestablishment Bill
Q. Mr. A. J. Balfour; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 30 [23] 1687

Tithe Rentcharges (Ireland)
  Motion for Return (Earl of Belmore) *July* 3 [26] 775

Tithes
  Disputes in Wales (see under title WALES)
  Essex, Q. Mr. A. C. Morton ; A. Mr. Gardner *May* 29 [24] 1524
  Farnham Dispute, Q. Mr. Jeffreys ; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 14 [28] 992
  Redemption at Rhyl, Q. Mr. S. Smith ; A. Mr. Gardner *May* 26 [24] 1525
  References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 18 [28] 1546, 1547

Titles, Bestowal of
  Motion for an Address, and Debate (Sir W. Lawson) *May* 4 [24] 410

TOBAGO
  Revenue of, &c., Qs. Colonel H. Vincent ; As. Mr. Buxton *April* 26 [23] 1409 ; *July* 24 [27] 807

TOLLEMACHE, Mr. H. J., *Cheshire, Eddisbury*
  Canal Tolls and Charges Provisional Order (No. 7) Bill, Con. [28] 433, 436

TOMLINSON, Mr. W. E. M., *Preston*
  Advertisements, Pictorial—Importation of, [26] 795
  Agriculture, Journal for [27] 379
  Alien Immigration [29] 152
  Army Estimates
    Rifle Ranges [22] 545 ; [25] 1003
    Suez Canal Shares [26] 1146
    Volunteers [26] 893
    Works, Buildings, &c. [26] 1086
  British East Africa Company [29] 376
  British Marked Goods [24] 202
  Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, Con. [27] 1624, 1649, 1655
  Business of the House [25] 63 ; [27] 1556 ; [28] 33, 479, 996, 1269 ; [29] 27
  Coal Mines (Check Weigher) Bill, 2R. [27] 1662 ; [28] 884 ; Com., 1149
  Committees (Ascension Day), Res. [24] 142
  Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill, 2R. [23] 1324
  Copyhold (Consolidation) Bill, Com. [28] 884
  Derelicts in the North Sea [29] 379
  Education Code [23] 337
  Eight Hours Day at Woolwich [24] 225
  Elementary Education Bill, Intro. [26] 513 ; 2R., 1436
  Equatorial Provinces of the Nile [29] 177
  Evening Continuation Schools Code, Res. [24] 1501

[*cont.*

TOMLINSON, Mr. W. E. M.—*cont.*
  Finance Bill, Com., *cl.* 2 [25] 459, 465, 467, 471, 518, 530 ; *cl.* 4, 866, 874 ; *cl.* 5, 980, 1160 ; *cl.* 6, 1235, 1281, 1314 ; *cl.* 7, 1415, 1509 ; *cl.* 9, 1524, 1531 ; *cl.* 17 [26] 165, 166 ; *New cls.*, 622, 629, 632, 653, 750 ; Con., 1277, 1420, 1432, 1547
  Foreign-Made Paper for the Public Service [26] 787
  Gosport Foreign Animals Wharf [25] 1638
  Great Western and Midland Railway Companies Bill [28] 481
  Indian Budget [28] 768
  Indian Reliefs [25] 8, 403
  International Code Book [29] 19
  Irish Protestant Police Officers [28] 27
  Ladies' Gallery [23] 1449
  Magistrates—Mr. Buckell [23] 190
  Metalliferous Mines Inspectors [28] 14
  Mines (Eight Hours) Bill [27] 792 ; Com. [28] 810, 814, 836
  Notice of Accidents (Expenses), Res. [24] 1082
  Parks—Sand Heaps [27] 1406
  Parochial Electors (Registration Acceleration) Bill, 2R. [23] 1779 ; Com. [26] 1155, 1156, 1162
  Presents to Foreign Governments—Specimens of Lee-Metford Rifles and Cordite Ammunition [23] 1413
  Preston—Holy Trinity National Schools [29] 162
  Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Con. [24] 1651, 1657 ; [25] 541
  Prevention of Cruelty to Children (No. 2) Bill 2R. [27] 1663 ; Com. [28] 546, 649
  Quarries Bill, 2R. [28] 547, 548
  Queen's Birthday Celebrations [25] 404
  Railway and Canal Traffic Bill, Qs. [22] 587 ; [24] 241 ; [27] 1585 ; Intro. [23] 225 ; 2R., 1202 ; Com. [28] 639, 643, 786, 794, 796, 798, 799
  Rating of Machinery Bill, 2R. [24] 740
  Shop Hours Act (1892) Amendment Bill, Com. [24] 1126, 1127, 1130
  Statute Law Revision Bill, Con. [28] 1484, 1485, 1486, 1487
  Steam Trawlers (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [24] 747
  Supply
    African Affairs [29] 341
    Art and Science Buildings [22] 1065, 1066, 1068, 1079
    Blackwater Harbour [28] 1394
    Brazilian Civil War — Loss of British Officers [28] 1481
    Diplomatic and Consular Buildings [22] 1081, 1086, 1087, 1088
    Discussion of [29] 100, 101, 122
    Elementary Education—Requirements of the Education Department [22] 388
    Factory and Metalliferous Mines Inspectors [28] 1438
    Indian Opium Commission [29] 110
    Liverpool Post Office [24] 1254
    Metalliferous Mines Inspector—Mr. Leck [27] 1459 ; [28] 1442

[*cont.*

TOMLINSON, Mr. W. E. M.—*cont.*
Supply—*cont.*
Ottawa Conference [28] 1510
Peterhead Harbour [28] 1396
Public Education [29] 213
Railway Companies and the Board of Trade [28] 1520, 1521
Scotch Votes [29] 173
Secret Service [28] 1588
Transvaal, British Subjects in [28] 1498
Torpedo-Boat "Havock" — Disclosures of Plans [22] 435
Trade and Agriculture, Depression of—Amendt. to Address in Answer to Queen's Speech [22] 104, 111, 112
Transvaal—British Subjects, &c. [27] 804, 1514; [29] 165, 166, 284
Volunteers
Camps [24] 805
Long Service Medals [25] 1629
Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 1191
Wigan Magistrate—Alleged Corrupt Practice by Mr. R. Johnson [22] 436
Wild Birds' Protection Act (1880) Amendment Bill, Com. [23] 1548

Tower Bridge, Return
Qs. Mr. J. Rowlands; As. Mr. Bryce *July* 24 [27] 805; *Aug* 21 [29] 176

Town Holdings Bill
c. Intro., Mr. H. L. W. Lawson; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 451
[Dropped]

Town Improvements (see *Betterment*)

Town Parks (Ireland) Bill
c. Intro., Captain Donelan; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 453
[Dropped]

TOWNSEND, Mr. C., *Bristol, N.*
Bristol Tramways Bill, Con. [27] 999
Finance Bill [26] 334

Trade and Commerce
British Goods in South Africa, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 22 [26] 18
British Trade in Egypt, Q. Mr. Seton-Karr; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 26 [26] 226
Commercial Treaties (see that title)
Depression—Amendt. to Address in Answer to Queen's Speech (Colonel H. Vincent) *Mar* 12 [22] 75
Ottawa Conference (see under title CANADA)
Trade with the Colonies (see under title COLONIES)

TRADE, BOARD OF
President—Mr. BRYCE
Secretary—Mr. T. BURT
Advertisements, Pictorial, Importation of, Qs. Mr. Farquharson, Mr. Tomlinson; As. Mr. Bryce *July* 3 [26] 795; Q. Mr. Farquharson; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 20 [27] 548
Balfour Companies (see that title)
Bankruptcy in Sussex—Case of Mr. Warren, Qs. Mr. H. Johnstone; As. Mr. Bryce *June* 1 [25] 167; *June* 21, 1634; Qs. Mr. H. Johnstone; As. Sir J. Rigby *June* 22 [26] 10; *July* 12, 1484
Barker & Company, Failure of, Q. Mr. J. Rowlands; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 5 [22] 1436; Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 13 [23] 335
Billingsgate Tolls, Q. Mr. H. Foster; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 27 [27] 1133; Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 17 [28] 1387
"*Board of Trade Journal*," Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 16 [23] 454; Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert, Sir W. Harcourt *April* 20, 976; Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 6 [28] 123
References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 18 [28] 1541, &c.
Board of Trade Offices—Reference to, in Debate on *Supply*, *May* 21 [24] 955, 959, &c.
Boiler Explosions in London, Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Burt *May* 29 [24] 1534
Bottles Imported into England — Merchandise Marks Act, Qs. Mr. Macdona, Colonel H. Vincent; As. Mr. Burt *May* 25 [24] 1272; Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Mr. Burt *May* 28, 1413
British Marked Goods, Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. Tomlinson; As. Mr. Mundella *May* 3 [24] 202
Bunker Coals, Q. Major Jones; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 17 [28] 1385
Canadian Tariff (see under title CANADA)
Canal Tolls, Q. Mr. Wilson-Todd; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 10 [23] 18
Cement Imported at Liverpool—Merchandise Marks Act, Q. Colonel Hill; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 31 [25] 42
Chisels, Fraudulently-Marked, Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; As. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 16 [28] 1222; Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. Cremer; As. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 23 [29] 346; Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 24, 421
Colonel Rich's Pension, Q. Sir G. Chesney; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 14 [25] 1088
Companies (Winding-up) Act, Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 7 [25] 571
Conciliation Bills, Q. Sir A. Rollit; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 19 [27] 381
Copyright Works (British), Canadian Royalties on, Q. Mr. Stuart-Wortley; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 19 [23] 839
Derelicts (see that title)
Directors, Public Examination of — Ellis, Drew, & Company, Limited, Q. Mr. Barrow; A. Mr. Burt *May* 21 [24] 913

[*cont.*

TRADE, BOARD OF—cont.

- *Dover Pier Dues*, Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Mr. Mundella *Mar* 19 [22] 578
- *Emigration and Immigration* (see that title)
- *Engineer Examinations*, Q. Mr. Howell; A. Mr. Mundella *May* 7 [24] 463
- *Essex Fishing Ground* (see that title)
- *Explosives—Shipping of at Plymouth*, Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 13 [26] 1568; Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *July* 20 [27] 547
- *False Trade Descriptions*, Q. Mr. Stuart-Wortley; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 24 [23] 1213
- *Fisheries* (see that title)
- *Foreign Goods—Merchandise Marks, and Customs Act*, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. R. T. Reid *May* 31 [25] 33; Qs. Mr. Macdona, Colonel H. Vincent; As. Mr. Bryce *June* 7, 565; Qs. Mr. Macdona, Mr. Stuart-Wortley; As. Mr. Bryce *June* 8, 687; Qs. Colonel H. Vincent; As. Mr. Bryce *June* 22 [26] 9; *June* 29, 568
- *Foreign Trade*, Copy pres. *April* 16 [23] 592
- *German Prison Labour—Importation of Goods into England*, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. Mundella *Mar* 15 [22] 341; Qs. Colonel H. Vincent; As. Mr. Mundella *April* 2, 1103; *April* 5, 1456; Q. Mr. Conybeare; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 5, 1458; Qs. Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. Darling, Mr. J. Lowther; As. Mr Mundella, Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 20 [23] 975; Q. Mr. J. Chamberlain; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 23, 1079; Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 23, 1096; Q. Mr. Holland; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 27, 1586; Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Mundella *May* 4 [24] 375; Q. Mr. Dodd; A. Mr. Mundella *May* 10, 766; Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Sir E. Grey *July* 20 [27] 545; Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 30, 1240; Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 16 [28] 1221
  Debate on *Aug* 23 [29] 388, &c.
- *Labour Department* (see that title)
- *Marking of Foreign Meat, &c.* (see that title)
- *Merchandise Marks Act Prosecutions*, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 13 [23] 321; Q. Mr. Stuart-Wortley; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 17, 618
- *Merchant Shipping* (see that title)
- *Money-Lending Banks*, Q. Mr. Yerburgh; A. Mr. Mundella *May* 10 [24] 811
- *Mundella, Mr., Resignation of*—Personal Explanation *May* 24 [24] 1191
- *Patent Office* (see that title)
- *Private Moorings in Public Roadsteads*, Q Mr. G. Bowles; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 9 [28] 468
- "*Provident Association of London*," Q. Mr. J. Collings; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 19 [27] 367
- *Publications* (see sub-heading "*Board of Trade Journal*" and "*Labour Gazette*," under title *Labour Department*)
- *Railways* (see that title)

TRADE, BOARD OF—cont.

- *Spirits, Imported*, Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 24 [27] 793
- *Straw Bottle-Envelopes, Importation of*, Q. Mr. W. Kenny; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 10 [23] 24
- *Thames and Severn Canal*, Qs. Mr. B. Jones, Mr. Bartley; As. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 14 [28] 979
- *Tower Bridge, Return*, Qs. Mr. J. Rowlands; As. Mr. Bryce *July* 24 [27] 805; *Aug* 21 [29] 176
- *Trade Union Reports*, Q. Mr. Howell; A. Mr. Mundella *Mar* 19 [22] 564
  (Refer also under *Labour Department*)
- *Vote for*, Con. in Com. *Aug* 18 [28] 1510
- *Weighing Machines, Stamping of*, Q. Mr. Caine; A. Mr. Mundella *April* 5 [22] 1439
- *Wrecks, Destruction of*, Q. Mr. Mildmay; A. Mr. Burt *April* 24 [23] 1212

Trade Disputes (Arbitration) Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Butcher; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 458

[Dropped]

Trade Reports (*Annual Series*)

Copies pres. *Mar* 29 [22] 1000; *April* 12 [23] 307; *May* 8 [24] 692; *May* 10, 911; *May* 21, 996; *May* 31 [25] 132; *June* 5, 496; *June* 6, 544; *June* 11, 892; *June* 12, 992; *June* 28 [26] 516; *July* 31 [27] 1496

Trade Reports (*Miscellaneous Series*)

Copies pres. *Mar* 15 [22] 432; *Mar* 20, 788; *Mar* 29, 1000; *May* 21 [24] 996; *June* 5 [25] 496; *June* 11, 892; *June* 28 [26] 516

Trade Unions (see under *Labour Department*)

Tradesmen's Licences

Q. Mr. Combe; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 22 [29] 282

Tramways and Public Companies (Ireland) Act, 1883, Amendment Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Tully; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 461

[Dropped]

Tramways Bill

c. Intro., Mr. Schwann; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 459

Withdrawn *July* 23 [27] 788

Tramways (Ireland) Bill

c. Motion for Leave, Sir J. T. Hibbert; Read 1° *Aug* 14 [28] 1082

Read 2° *Aug* 16, 1354

l. Read 1ª *Aug* 21 [29] 149

[*cont.*

Tramways (*Ireland*) [*Redemption*]
c. Con. in Com. *Aug* 16 [28] 1355
Res. reported *Aug* 17, 1488

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill
l. Pres., Lord Playfair *May* 1 [24] 18
Read 2ª *May* 29, 1507
Com.; Standing Com. negatived *June* 11 [25] 788
Order for report of Amendts. read, and discharged *June* 12, 897
Amendts. reported *July* 2 [26] 660
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 3, 779
c. Read 1° *July* 5, 1044
Read 2° *July* 17 [27] 275
Reported *July* 25, 951
As amended, Con. *July* 31, 1373
Read 3°, and passed *Aug* 1, 1554
l. Royal Assent *Aug* 17
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxci]

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill
l. Pres., Lord Playfair; Read 1ª *May* 10 [24] 750
Read 2ª *May* 31 [25] 4
Reported from Select Com. *June* 14, 1057
Com.; Standing Com. negatived *July* 2 [26] 660
Amendts. reported *July* 3, 780
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 5, 941
c. Read 1° *July* 6, 1168
Paper pres.; to be printed *July* 10, 1392
Read 2° *July* 17 [27] 275
Reported *July* 25, 952
As amended, Con. *July* 31, 1381
As amended, Con. *Aug* 6 [28] 119
Con. in Com.; Re-com., and Reported *Aug* 7, 237
Con. *Aug* 8, 427
l. Commons Amendts. con., and agreed to *Aug* 16, 1214
Royal Assent *Aug* 17
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxcii]

Tramways (*Street and Road*)
Return ordered (Mr. Burt) *July* 4 [26] 920

TRANSVAAL (*see under* AFRICA)

Trawling in Scotland (see under SCOTLAND—*Fisheries*)

Treasury and Subordinate Departments
Vote for, Con. in Com. *Aug* 17 [28] 1433

Treasury Chest Fund
Copy pres. *Mar* 12 [22] 128

Treasury Grants in Lieu of Local Rates
Q. Mr. Darling; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 10 [24] 798

Treasury, Surrenders to
Q. Mr. Forwood; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 17 [23] 634

Treaties, Commercial
Qs. Sir A. Rollit, Sir M. H. Beach; As. Sir E. Grey *July* 20 [27] 552; Qs. Sir A. Rollit, Colonel H. Vincent, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir E. Grey *July* 30, 1238

Treaty Series
Copies pres. *Mar* 15 [22] 432; *April* 13 [23] 428; *May* 2 [24] 200; *May* 21, 996; *May* 31 [25] 132

TREVELYAN, RIGHT HON. SIR G. O. (Secretary for Scotland), *Glasgow, Bridgeton*
Bothwell Miners' Disturbance and the Police [28] 767, 995
Bravery, Treasury Appreciation of [27] 1005
Burgh Police (Scotland) Act (1892) Amendment Bill, 2R. [25] 494
Business of the House—Scottish Legislation [22] 326, 691
Caithness Evictions—Case of Mr. J. Laurie [24] 590
Church of Scotland Bill [24] 609
Cockenzie Fishery Provisional Order Bill, Intro. [22] 1522
Commissary Office, Edinburgh [22] 1449
Crofters
- Cantyre—Torresdale Estate [25] 569
- Colonisation Board Staff [25] 294, 410
- Commission [22] 1097; [24] 362, 371, 587; [25] 301, 806, 918; [28] 552; [29] 363
- Legislation [23] 220; [24] 40, 43; [25] 301
- Saltcoats Settlements [22] 1254; [24] 1173, 1420; [26] 1192

Crofters' Act (1886), Res. [23] 23, 1644
Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Bill, Intro. [26] 104
Disestablishment [22] 696; [29] 150
Dog Licences—Prosecution of Donald Macrae [25] 1345
Education
- Ardchattan Episcopal School [26] 1471
- Assault by a Lewis Schoolmaster [22] 1567
- Attendance—State-Aided Schools, &c. [24] 1416
- Books [22] 682; [23] 1081; [24] 1267; [25] 290
- Dunnet School Board [27] 1559
- Edinburgh University Curriculum [23] 1411
- Education Act [22] 437
- Educational Affairs and the Parish Councils [25] 40
- Education Code [24] 372, 459, 904, 908; [29] 168

[cont.

TREVELYAN, Right Hon. Sir G. O.—*cont.*
  Education—*cont.*
    Evening Continuation Schools Code [24] 1272; Res., 1501
    Examinations under the New Code [24] 1542
    Glasgow Pupil Teachers' Institution [25] 685
    Inspectors of Secondary Education [24] 1173
    Parish Councils [24] 997
    Peats—Children Taking to Schools [22] 865
    Results Fees [24] 1186
    Secondary Education—Ayrshire, &c. [22] 672; [24] 1266; [25] 689; [26] 688; [27] 25, 366
    Shetland and the Education Code [25] 178
    Teachers' Training Colleges [23] 631
  Fatal Accidents Inquiry (Scotland) Bill [25] 418

  Fisheries
    Campbeltown Loch—Proposed Hatchery [27] 665
    Cruisers [23] 610; [24] 474; [25] 285; [28] 990
    Dingwall Salmon Poaching Prosecutions [25] 1351; [26] 799
    Herring Fishery [22] 311; [23] 1676
    Licences [24] 1174
    Lough Fyne—Sunday Fishing [27] 1015
    Ryan Oyster Fishery [24] 457
    Salmon Fishery Regulations [24] 209
    Trawling—Protection of Fishing [22] 317, 1096; [25] 565, 1459; [26] 953, 1191; [27] 27; [28] 251; [29] 24
  Fishery Board (Scotland) Extension of Powers Bill, 2R. [24] 197
  Flannan Islands Lighthouse [24] 463
  Footpaths in the Island of Lewis [22] 859, 1566
  Habitual Offenders [22] 1435; [23] 1221
  Harbours in the Island of Lewis [24] 1390
  Home Rule, Res. [22] 1307, 1308
  Invergordon Ferry [22] 860
  Leaving Certificates—Examiners [25] 1622
  Linn of Dee [27] 666, 1002
  Local Government (Scotland) Bill [27] 1565; Motion for Leave [23] 1613, 1616, 1618, 1624, 1636; 2R. [24] 1063; Motion for Com. 1081; Con. [28] 412, 413, 421, 424, 488, 489, 492, 496, 501, 504, 507, 508, 509, 516, 521, 526, 528, 532, 534, 535, 539, 571, 585, 594, 596, 597, 599, 601, 606, 610, 617, 620, 626, 628, 631; 3R., 635; Lords Amendts. [29] 285, 287, 289, 297, 299, 310, 311
  Lunacy Reports [24] 460; [27] 378, 1006
  Magistrates and Licensing Questions [24] 1540
  Milk Adulteration [25] 39
  National Gallery Curatorship [24] 1175
  Parochial Grants [22] 142
  Pauper Lunatics [24] 1538
  Pauper Removals to Ireland [24] 583, 1544
  Peterhead Prison [26] 133

TREVELYAN, Right Hon. Sir G. O.—*cont.*
  Police
    Bothwell Miners' Disturbances [28] 767, 995
    Canoustie District [25] 672
    Cost of [23] 978
    Duties of Commissioners of Police Burghs [22] 442
    Forres Borough Auditorship [24] 1176; [26] 952
    Labour Meetings [26] 457
    Pensions [24] 465; [26] 1483
    Perth City Police [27] 1007
  Portnaguran Harbour [24] 1390, 1538
  Portness Harbour Works [24] 362

  Prisons
    Barlinnie [22] 862
    Mat-Making [26] 1489
  Public Libraries (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [23] 1383
  Public Works, Expenditure [22] 303
  Religion of Pauper Children [26] 678
  Returning Officers [24] 1267; [25] 285, 295, 396
  Road Subvention in Edinburgh [23] 838
  Ross-shire—West Coast, Communication with [24] 1389
  St. Andrews University—Rev. J. Herkless [22] 1442
  Small Holdings in Scotland [26] 690, 1464
  Small Isles Parochial Medical Officer [23] 964; [24] 1541
  Small-Pox at Leith [25] 570
  Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [22] 1116; [23] 1013, 1015, 1589, 1598, 1600, 1602, 1607, 1611
  Steam Trawlers (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [24] 747

  Supply
    Colonisation [29] 104
    Crofter Commission [29] 87, 88, 89
    Deer Forest Commission, &c. [22] 796, 841, 842
    Education [29] 239
    Fisheries—Trawling [22] 892; [29] 62
    Public Works [29] 115
    Scotch Affairs [22] 847
    Secretary for Scotland's Office [29] 51
  Thurso Slaughter Houses [29] 156
  Ullapool Rate Collection [24] 24

TRINIDAD
  Diplomatic Relations with Venezuela, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 5 [22] 1429; Qs. Colonel H. Vincent; As. Mr. Buxton *April* 9, 1592
  Harbour, Q. Mr. Pierpoint; A. Mr. Buxton *May* 10 [24] 763
  Island of Tobago, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Buxton *April* 26 [23] 1409
  Railway Officials, Charges against, Q. Mr. Webb; A. Mr. Buxton *June* 5 [25] 405

TRIPOLI
  Tunis-Tripoli Frontier, Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 21 [25] 1642

[*cont.*

TRITTON, Mr. C. E., *Lambeth, Norwood*
Licensing Laws Amendment Bill, Intro. [24] 140

Troopships (see under *Army*)

Trout Fishing (Scotland) Bill
l. Pres., Lord Lamington; Read 1ª *May* 7 [24] 453
2R. postponed *May* 10, 749
Read 2ª *May* 28, 1365
Com.; Re-com. to Standing Com. *May* 29, 1505
Reported from Standing Com. *June* 5 [25] 394
Amendts. reported *June* 7, 546
Read 3ª, and passed *June* 8, 670
c. Read 1° *June* 12, 991
Read 2ª *June* 20, 1608
Com., R.P. *June* 26 [26] 320; *July* 23 [27] 788

Truck Act
Q. Mr. K. Hardie; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 26 [26] 225

Truro and Newquay Junction Railway Bill
c. Con., as amended, put off for six months *May* 24 [24] 1133

Trust Companies Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Wootton Isaacson; Read 1° *Mar* 19 [22] 675
[Dropped]

Trustee Act, 1893
Q. Mr. W. Kenny; A. Sir C. Russell *Mar* 13 [22] 152

Trustee Act (1893) Amendment Bill
c. Intro., Mr. W. Kenny; Read 1ª *Mar* 16 [22] 457
Read 2ª *April* 9, 1687
Com., and reported without Amendment; Read 3°, and passed *April* 11 [23] 170
l. Read 1ª *April* 12, 182
Read 2ª *April* 16, 448
Com.; Reported; Re-com. to Standing Com. *April* 23, 1069
Reported from Standing Com. *May* 1 [24] 18
Amendts. reported *May* 7, 453
Read 3ª, and passed *May* 8, 578
Royal Assent *June* 18
[57° Vic. c. 10]

Trustees, Laches of
Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 14 [25] 1095

Trusts Administration
Select Com. ordered (Colonel H. Vincent) *June* 28 [26] 515
Com. nominated *Aug* 1 [27] 1555
Report *Aug* 7 [28] 368

Tuberculosis Commission Report
Q. Mr. Lees Knowles; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Mar* 12 [22] 153; Qs. Mr. Field; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Mar* 15, 340; *May* 10 [24] 783; Q. Mr. Chaplin; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 28, 1402; Qs. Mr. Field, Sir C. Dilke; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *June* 29 [26] 565; Qs. Mr. Hunter, Mr. Chaplin, Sir M. Stewart; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 20 [27] 548; Q. Mr. D. Crawford; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 13 [28] 767

TUITE, Mr. J., *Westmeath, N.*
Parliamentary Elections (Returning Officers) (Ireland) Bill, Intro. [22] 454
Spencer Dock, Dublin [23] 200

TULLY, Mr. J., *Leitrim, S.*
Inland Revenue Officers, Charges against [27] 31
Ireland
- Board of Works Land in Leitrim [24] 784; [26] 1305
- Congested Districts Board—Mr. Tottenham's Letter [28] 441; [29] 170
- Dromod Dispensary District [24] 28
- Drumreilly Postal Arrangements [24] 464
- Drumshanbo Stationmaster [23] 1440; [24] 217
- Drunkenness at Boyle—Prosecutions [27] 1269
- Evictions in South Leitrim [23] 1588, 1685; [24] 221; [26] 1065
- Ex-National School Teacher, P. M'Teigne [26] 126
- Godley Estate, South Leitrim [25] 552; [26] 226, 1559; [27] 1004, 1559
- Leitrim Magistrates [24] 1544; [27] 169
- Leitrim (South) Mails [26] 1564
- Lough Key Floods [27] 1005; [28] 440
- Madden's Estate—Tenants and Fair Rents [25] 290
- Militia Sergeants' Pay [24] 594
- Mixed Trains [26] 7
- Mohill Loan Fund Society [24] 464
- Poor Rates [24] 368. 783; [27] 1125
- Registration Fees [25] 1467, 1637; [26] 227
- Reproductive Loans [24] 1534; [25] 169, 411; [26] 1298
- Rinn and Black River Drainage [27] 364

Tramways and Public Companies (Ireland) Act (1883) Amendment Bill, Intro. [22] 461

Tunis-Tripoli Frontier
Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir E. Grey *June* 21 [25] 1642

TURKEY
Anglo-Belgian Agreement (see under title AFRICA)
Armenian Troubles (see that title)
Capitulations in, References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Mar* 30 [22] 1090
Mossoul Consular Appointment, Q. Mr. W. Allen ; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 17 [23] 615

TWEEDMOUTH, Lord (Lord Privy Seal and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster)
Betterment — Town Improvements, Select Com. Report [27] 344
Burgh Police (Scotland) Act (1892) Amendment Bill, 2R. [25] 1335
Cockenzie Fishery Provisional Order Bill, 2R. [26] 23
County Councils Association (Scotland) Expenses Bill, 2R. [23] 1070
Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Com. [28] 1167, 1168, 1169, 1171, 1173, 1174, 1175, 1176, 1177, 1180, 1181, 1182, 1185, 1186, 1187, 1188, 1190, 1191, 1193, 1195, 1198, 1199, 1200, 1202, 1203, 1205, 1207, 1210, 1211, 1212, 1214 ; Report, 1358, 1360, 1361, 1362
London County Council—Duchy of Lancaster and Betterment, Res. [26] 1551, 1554
London County Council (Tower Bridge Southern Approach) Bill, 3R. [28] 229, 231, 232
Nautical Assessors (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [27] 1114
Parochial Electors (Registration Acceleration) Bill, 2R. [27] 334
Public Libraries (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill, 2R. [27] 1115 ; Com., 1235 ; Report [28] 3, 4
Public Libraries (Scotland) Bill, 2R. [25] 1335
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [28] 746, 748, 749, 750, 751
Valuation of Lands (Scotland) Acts Amendment Bill, 2R. [27] 536 ; Com., 654

UGANDA (*see under* AFRICA)

Underground Railway (see *Railways*)

Unification of London
Q. Mr. Cohen ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 10 [24] 765 ; Q. Sir A. Rollit ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *July* 19 [27] 381 ; Q. Mr. Benn ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 16 [28] 1251

Uniforms Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Farquharson ; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 450
Read 2° *May* 9 [24] 699
Select Com. nominated *May* 29, 1636
Select Com., Members discharged and added to, *June* 26 [26] 320

Uniforms Bill—cont.
Reported and Re-com. *July* 10, 1391
Con. in Com. (Re-com.) *July* 16 [27] 116
Read 3°, and passed *July* 23, 788
l. Read 2ª *July* 31, 1365
Com. ; Reported, &c. *Aug* 6 [28] 118
Read 3ª, and passed *Aug* 16, 1165
c. Lords Amendts. con., and agreed to *Aug* 17, 1488
Royal Assent *Aug* 25
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 45]

UNITED STATES (*see* AMERICA)

Universities (see under *Education*)
Scotch and Irish Questions (see under titles SCOTLAND and IRELAND)

Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1887 (*Oxford*)
Copy pres. *May* 8 [24] 692

Universities Representation Abolition Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Roundell ; Read 1° *April* 17 [23] 747
[Dropped]

Unwilled Property
Case of Mrs. Adams, Qs. Colonel Palmer, Mr. Bartley ; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 11 [25] 798

UNYORO (*see under* AFRICA)

USBORNE, Mr. T., *Essex, Chelmsford*
Finance Bill, 2R. [24] 527, 529, 530
Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 533, 1148

Vaccination
Birmingham — Deaths from Small-Pox — Alleged Inaccurate Death Certificates, Q. Mr. Hopwood ; A. Sir W. Foster *May* 1 [24] 34
Bury, *Death of a Child at*, Q. Mr. Hopwood ; A. Sir W. Foster *April* 20 [23] 984
Compulsory Vaccination and Boards of Guardians, Qs. Mr. K. Hardie, Mr. Channing ; As. Sir W. Foster *June* 12 [25] 913
Hackney Union Officer, Q. Mr. Bousfield ; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *May* 31 [25] 30
Hong Kong, Q. Mr. Smith-Barry ; A. Mr. Buxton *May* 8 [24] 599
London Constables—Compulsory Re-Vaccination, Q. Mr. Hopwood ; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 3 [28] 9
Prosecutions, Q. Mr. Channing ; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 30 [27] 1247
Royal Commission Recommendations, Q. Mr. Hopwood ; A. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 20 [22] 683
Small-Pox at Coventry, Q. Mr. Hopwood ; A. Sir W. Foster *Aug* 14 [28] 997

[*cont.*

Valuation (Metropolis) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Pickersgill; Read 1° *Mar* 30 [22] 1092
2R. deferred *May* 2 [24] 198
Withdrawn *July* 25 [27] 952

Valuation of Lands (Scotland) Acts Amendment Bill
l. Pres., Lord Tweedmouth; Read 1ª *July* 13 [26] 1556
Read 2ª *July* 20 [27] 536
Com.; Reported; and Re-com. to Standing Com. *July* 23, 653
Reported *July* 24, 790
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 26, 998
c. Read 1° *Aug* 1, 1555
Read 2° *Aug* 6 [28] 228
Con. in Com.; Reported; Read 3°, and passed *Aug* 7, 368
l. Royal Assent *Aug* 17
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 36]

Vehicles' Lights Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Webster; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 460
[Dropped]

VENEZUELA
Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Sir E. Grey *April* 5 [22] 1429; Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Buxton *April* 9, 1592; Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Sir E. Grey *May* 25 [24] 1259

VENTRY, Lord
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [28] 712

VINCENT, Colonel C. E. H., *Sheffield, Central*
Alien Immigration [29] 150
Army Estimates
  Clothing [26] 986, 993
  Warlike and other Stores [26] 1032
Army Schoolmasters' Pensions [24] 1388
Attercliffe Vacancy [26] 568
Board of Trade Publications [23] 454, 976
Bottles, Foreign—Importation of [24] 1273
Brazilian Civil War [22] 331
British Goods in South Africa [26] 18, 1478
British-Marked Goods [24] 202
British Naval Boats Made in Germany [24] 41, 225
British Trade with the Colonies—Ottawa Conference [24] 607, 1423; [26] 1572; [27] 811; [29] 174, 355
Budget Proposals [23] 1450; [24] 797
Business of the House, Res. [28] 1269
Chisels, Fraudulently-Marked [28] 1222; [29] 346, 421
Colonies and the Defence of the Empire [26] 424, 566, 1465
Colonies and the New Estate Duty [25] 1097

[cont.

VINCENT, Colonel C. E. H.—*cont.*
Commercial Treaties [27] 1239
Contracts—Cutlery [23] 187, 188
County Councils and Light Railways [26] 1488
Discharged and Reserve Soldiers, Employment for, Res. [22] 518
Emigration Statistics—United States Immigration Law [23] 1073
Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, Com. [28] 79
Finance Bill, Com. [26] 477, 500
First Offenders, Treatment of [28] 1225
Foreign Goods for the Public Service [25] 1212
Foreign Goods (Mark of Origin) Bill, Intro. [22] 457; 2R. [24] 186, 187, 189, 190, 191
Foreign-Made Paper in Government Offices [26] 243
Foreign Prison-Made Goods and the Customs [25] 33, 565; [26] 9, 568
German Export Trade [22] 1456
German Language on Board H.M.S. "Britannia" [25] 1083
German Prison-Made Goods—Importation of into England [22] 1103; [23] 974, 1096; [24] 375; [27] 545, 1240; [28] 1221; [29] 388, 390
Government Contracts—Fair Wages [26] 1068
Guatemala—British Minister [23] 222
H.M.S. "Powerful" [22] 1577
Honduras and Nicaragua [25] 283
Identification of Criminals [26] 237
Identification of Prison-Made Goods Bill, Intro. [24] 748; 2R. [26] 513
Income Tax Commissioners [22] 1100
Indian Imports [22] 347
Indian Telegraph Department Contracts [23] 462
Invasion, Preparations against [23] 463
Labour Minister Bill, 2R. [24] 174
Laches of Trustees [25] 1095
Manufacture of Warlike Stores [26] 1069
Merchandise Marks Act, Offences against—Prosecutions [23] 321
Merchandise Marks Acts (1887 and 1891) Amendment (Cutlery) Bill, 2R. [24] 186
Merchant Shipping Bill, Re-com. [27] 1362
Naming Ships [24] 455
Nicaragua Canal [27] 15
Panama Canal [25] 788
Patents—New Rules [29] 382
Peru [23] 183; [25] 291
Public Trustee and Executor Bill, Intro. [23] 171
Re-directed Postal Matter [25] 23
Rifle Ranges [27] 1394; [28] 438
St. Lucia and the McKinley Tariff [23] 1409
Supply
  Diplomatic Service [27] 1343
  Matabeleland and Mashonaland Agreement, &c. [27] 1480
Tobago, Revenue of, &c. [23] 1409; [27] 807

[cont.

VINCENT, Colonel C. E. H.—*cont.*
Trade and Agriculture, Depression of—Amendt. to Address in Answer to Queen's Speech [22] 75
Unemployed in Sheffield [26] 10
Vacation of Seat on Succession to Peerage, Motion for Select Com. [26] 418
Venezuela [22] 1429, 1592; [24] 1259
Volunteers
Long Service Medal [25] 580; [26] 1464
Mounted [25] 299
Worcester Police as Firemen [25] 24

Vivisection
Q. Mr. J. E. Ellis; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 28 [24] 1390; Q. Colonel Lockwood; A. Mr. G. Russell *May* 31 [25] 17
Cambridge University, Q. Colonel Lockwood; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 21 [25] 1648

Voluntary Conveyances Act
Question of Privilege, Obs. Mr. Pritchard-Morgan, Sir W. Ingram, Sir W. Harcourt, Mr. Perks, Sir R. Webster *April* 17 [23] 638

Voluntary Schools
(See under *Education*)

Volunteers
(See under *Army*)

Von Krause's Petition
Obs. Earl of Lauderdale, Lord Herschell *April* 26 [23] 1404

Von Roemer's Resumption of British Nationality Bill
c. Read 2° *Aug* 16 [28] 1216

WADDY, Mr. S. D., *Lincolnshire*, *Brigg*
Supply—Framing the Estimates [24] 944

WADELAI (*see under* AFRICA)

WALES
Agricultural Education—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 18 [28] 1548, &c.
Albion Colliery Explosion (see under title *Mines*)
Ancient Manuscripts in Libraries, Q. Mr. F. Edwards; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *June* 12 [25] 911
Beaumaris Scheme, Q. Lord Stanley of Alderley; A. Earl of Rosebery *April* 9 [22] 1565
Benefices, Sale of, Q. and Obs. Earl of Powis, Lord Herschell, Marquess of Salisbury, Earl Stanhope *May* 31 [25] 1
Bishop of St. Asaph and Mr. Acland, Q. Mr. Humphreys-Owen; A. Mr. Acland *Aug* 2 [27] 1575

[*cont.*

WALES—*cont.*
Boxing Contest at Aberdare, Q. Mr. D. Thomas; A. Mr. Asquith *June* 1 [25] 177
Brynmawr Postmaster and Political Organisations, Q. Mr. S. Leighton; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 17 [27] 160
Burial Grounds Q. Mr. S. Leighton; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 12 [26] 1463
Cardiff Savings Bank, Q. Mr. Howell; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 21 [25] 1644
Cardiganshire Chief Constable and Mr. R. Lewis, Q. Mr. Griffith-Boscawen; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 3 [28] 27
Cathedrals and Disestablishment, Q. Mr. J. More; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 30 [23] 1668; Q. Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 1 [24] 44; Qs. Mr. Arnold-Forster; As. Mr. Asquith *May* 3, 216; *May* 8, 589; Q. Mr. S. Leighton; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 28, 1407; Qs. Mr. S. Leighton, Viscount Cranborne; As. Mr. Asquith *June* 4 [25] 299; Qs. Mr. Arnold-Forster, Mr. Griffith-Boscawen, Mr. P. FitzGerald; As. Mr. Asquith *June* 7, 561; Qs. Viscount Wolmer, Mr. Talbot, Mr. Griffith-Boscawen, Viscount Cranborne; As. Mr. Asquith *June* 11, 802; Qs. Viscount Cranborne, Mr. Griffith-Boscawen; As. Mr. Asquith *June* 28 [26] 442
Cemetery Consecration in Cardiganshire, Q. Mr. Griffith-Boscawen; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 30 [27] 1251
Census—Welsh-Speaking Population, Q. Mr. Lloyd-George; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 21 [29] 179—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 20 [29] 38, &c.; *Aug* 22, 321, &c.
Church Revenues, Return, Qs. Mr. D. Thomas; As. Mr. Asquith *May* 3 [24] 216; *May* 8, 589; *May* 25, 1280; Q. Mr. Humphreys-Owen; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 2 [26] 689
Coed-y-Pain School, Q. Mr. S. Leighton; A. Mr. Acland *May* 24 [24] 1169

Colleges and Universities
References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 21 [29] 219, &c.
References to, in Debate on the *Appropriation Bill*, *Aug* 23 [29] 410, &c.

Common Land Enclosures in Flintshire, Q. Mr. S. Smith; A. Mr. Gardner *May* 8 [24] 590
Criccieth Beach, Q. Mr. Lloyd-George; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 16 [28] 1254—References to, in Debate on *Supply*, *Aug* 18 [28] 1534, &c.
Culliford, Emily, Case of, Q. Mr. Burnie; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 14 [28] 1000
Disestablishment (see *Established Church* (*Wales*) *Bill*)
Drunken Publicans, Prosecution of, Q. Sir G. Osborne Morgan; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 10 [23] 8
East Indians, Destitute, at Swansea, Q. Mr. Burnie; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 12 [25] 927
Eglwyseg Rural Postman, Q. Mr. H. Roberts; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 16 [28] 1253

[*cont.*

WALES—*cont.*

Ely Valley Railway, Q. Mr. A. Williams; A. Mr. Bryce *June* 8 [25] 671

Endowed Schools Act, 1869, and Amending Acts and Welsh Intermediate Act, 1889

Anglesey Scheme, Motion for Address (Bishop of Bangor) *April* 17 [23] 593

Copies pres. Mar 29 [22] 1000; *May* 10 [24] 911; *May* 28, 1504

Denbighshire Scheme, Motions for Addresses (Viscount Cross), (Bishop of St. Asaph) *June* 19 [25] 1437, 1447

Flint County, Motion for Address (Bishop of St. Asaph) *April* 17 [23] 598; Answer to Address *May* 7 [24] 425

Established Church (Wales) Bill—Translation of into Welsh, Q. Sir G. Osborne Morgan; A. Mr. Asquith *May* 1 [24] 36

Forestry Education, Q. Mr. Herbert Lewis; A. Mr. Gardner *July* 20 [27] 561

Glebe and Tithe Rent-Charge—Established Church (Wales) Bill, Qs. Mr. Jeffreys; As. Mr. Asquith *May* 3 [24] 216; *May* 8, 588

Glebe and Tithe, Return read, and discharged, and instead thereof, *Church in Wales and Monmouthshire*, &c. *July* 17 [27] 276

Grants to Public Elementary Schools, Q. Viscount Cranborne; A. Mr. Acland *July* 27 [27] 1138

Halkyn Mountain Quarries, Q. Mr. S. Smith; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 17 [27] 160

"*Helvetia*," *Case of the*, Q. Mr. Macdona; A. Mr. Bryce *July* 10 [26] 1301

Intermediate Education, Q. Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen; A. Mr. Acland *April* 17 [23] 620

Intermediate Education Scheme, Denbighshire, Q. Mr. H. Roberts; A. Mr. Acland *July* 27 [27] 1136

Intermediate Education Schemes—References to, in Debate on *Supply, Aug* 20 [29] 1381, &c.

Labour Correspondents, Q. Mr. Lloyd-George; A. Mr. Bryce *Aug* 21 [29] 169

Land Commission Report, Q. Mr. Humphreys-Owen; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 2 [26] 690—References to, in Debate on *Supply, Aug* 20 [29] 106, &c.

Land Tax Commissioners, Q. Mr. Herbert Lewis; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 11 [25] 810

Llanarth National School, Q. Mr. W. Williams; A. Mr. Acland *June* 18 [25] 1351

Local Government Act, Translation of, into Welsh, Qs. Mr. Herbert Lewis; As. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 2 [22] 1112; *July* 24 [27] 804

Mineral Rights—Grants to Sir W. Herbert, Qs. Mr. P. Morgan, Mr. Herbert Lewis; As. Sir J. Rigby *June* 25 [26] 134; Q. Mr. P. Morgan; A. Sir J. Rigby *June* 26, 241; Q. Mr. P. Morgan; A. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 2, 696; Q. Mr. P. Morgan; A. Sir J. Rigby *July* 5, 957

Mines (see under that title)

Newcastle-Emlyn County Court Bailiff, Assault on, Q. Mr. Griffith-Boscawen; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 23 [23] 1076

Nonconformist Ministers, Qs. Viscount Cranborne, Mr. Herbert Lewis; As. Mr. Asquith *June* 28 [26] 442

Postal Facilities in South Wales, Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; A. Mr. A. Morley *Aug* 3 [28] 23

Post Office Appointments, Q. Mr. Spicer; A. Mr. A. Morley *July* 30 [27] 1250

Quarries (see that title)

Rhuddlan School, St. Asaph, Q. Mr. Griffith-Boscawen; A. Mr. Acland *July* 30 [27] 1252

River Ffrwd, Drowning in, Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *Aug* 10 [28] 758

Ruabon—Insanitary Condition, Q. Sir G. Osborne Morgan; A. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre *April* 17 [23] 610

School Inspectors, Q. Mr. Kenyon; A. Mr. Acland *April* 6 [22] 1505

Swine Fever in Denbighshire, Q. Mr. H. Roberts; A. Mr. Gardner *June* 28 [26] 452

Tithe Collections, Q. Mr. Griffith-Boscawen; A. Mr. Asquith *April* 3 [22] 1245; Qs. Mr. Griffith-Boscawen, Mr. Stanley Leighton; As. Mr. Asquith *May* 28 [24] 1392

Tithe Redemption at Rhyl, Q. Mr. S. Smith; A. Mr. Gardner *May* 29 [24] 1525

Trade Dispute and the Police, Qs. Mr. Randell; As. Mr. Asquith *July* 12 [26] 1477; *July* 16 [27] 22; *July* 17, 177; *July* 19, 380; Qs. Mr. Randell, Major Jones; As. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 3 [28] 21

Uzmaston School, Q. Viscount Cranborne; A. Mr. Acland *June* 19 [25] 1465

Wills in Welsh Language, Q. Mr. B. Roberts; A. Sir J. Rigby *July* 31 [27] 1408

Wyndham Colliery (see under title *Mines*)

WALLACE, Mr. J. S., *Tower Hamlets, Limehouse*

Business of the House, Res. [25] 63

Customs Outport Clerks [27] 20

East London Water Bill, 2R. [22] 1401

WALLACE, Mr. R., *Edinburgh, E.*

Business of the House [29] 27

Civil Service—Compulsory Retirement [22] 1106

Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Con. [28] 624, 627

Scotch National Gallery Curatorship [24] 1175

Supply—Scotch Votes [28] 1554, 1555, 1556; [29] 47, 48

Wallasey Embankment Bill

c. Read 2° *June* 19 [25] 1449

As amended, Con. *July* 10 [26] 1393

[*cont.*

Walsall Inebriates' Retreat
Q. Mr. Buchanan ; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 30 [27] 1256

WALSINGHAM, Lord
Cambridge Corporation Bill, 3R. [25] 1326

Walsingham, Lord—Cottage Tenantry
Q. Mr. Saunders ; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 26 [27] 1018

Waltham Abbey Explosions (see under *Army*)

Walthamstow, St. John's Industrial School
Q. Mr. A. O'Connor ; A. Mr. Asquith *Aug* 21 [29] 170

WALTON, Mr. J. L., *Leeds, S.*
Period of Qualification and Elections Bill, 2R. [24] 304, 310

WANTAGE, Lord
Post Office and the Employment of Reserve Soldiers [24] 446, 450, 452 ; [25] 3

WAR OFFICE
Secretary of State—Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN
Under Secretary of State—Lord SANDHURST
Financial Secretary—Mr. WOODALL
(See under *Army*)

WARDE, Lieutenant-Colonel C. E., *Kent, Medway*
Poor Law Boundaries in Kent [25] 588

WARINA (*see under* AFRICA—SIERRA LEONE)

WARING, Colonel T., *Down, N.*
Army Estimates—Conveyance of Troops [26] 913
Canadian Cattle Importation [23] 1085, 1087, 1088 ; [24] 1623 ; [25] 919
Ireland
  Board of Irish Lights and the Briggs Reef Buoy [22] 570 ; [23] 323, 324
  Labourers' Cottages, Ballymena [26] 783
  Land Acts Inquiry [22] 699
  Land Grabbing—Denouncing Robert Gillespie [25] 921
  Newcastle Harbour [26] 124
  Orange Disturbances [25] 1228
Lance-Corporals in Infantry Regiments [25] 399, 583

[cont.

WARING, Colonel T.—*cont.*
Land Tenure (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [23] 127, 152
Pleuro Pneumonia [23] 1221
Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Con. [24] 1641
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill [23] 872

WARMINGTON, Mr. C. M., *Monmouth, W.*
Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, Con. [27] 1612
Patent Agents Registration Bill, Intro. [22] 1380 ; 2R., 1375

WARNER, Mr. T. C. T., *Somerset, N.*
Business of the House [29] 27
Diseases of Animals Bill, 3R. [28] 1079
Finance Bill, Com. [24] 1584 ; [26] 602
Foreign Goods (Mark of Origin) Bill, 2R. [24] 194
Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, 2R. [24] 730
Queen's Speech, Reply to [22] 37
Supply
  Government Employés and District and Parish Councils [27] 1301
  House of Lords Offices [29] 271
  Railway Companies [28] 1523
Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 1314, 1315, 1316

Warren Hastings Island, Reported Wrecks off
Q. Mr. D. Crawford ; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *April* 9 [22] 1568 ; Q. Mr. C. Bentinck ; A. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth *April* 19 [23] 852

Warwickshire Ex-Chief Constable (see *Law and Justice and Police*—subheading *Police*)

WASON, Mr. E., *Ayrshire, E.*
Cardiff Corporation Bill, Con. [26] 674
Scotch Coal Strike [27] 1016
Secondary Education in Ayrshire [26] 688
Surveyors' Stationary Clerks [24] 1270
Trawlers in the Firth of Clyde [24] 776

Water Orders Confirmation Bill
l. Pres., Lord Playfair ; Read 1^{a} *May* 1 [24] 19
Read 2^{a} *May* 29, 1507
Com. ; Standing Com. negatived *June* 11 [25] 787
Amendts. reported *June* 12, 896
Read 3^{a}, and passed *June* 14, 1058
c. Read 1° *June* 15, 1320
Read 2° *June* 26 [26] 319
Reported *July* 5, 1043

[cont.

Water Orders Confirmation Bill—cont.
As amended, Con. *July* 6, 1167
Read 3°, and passed *July* 9, 1278
l. Returned from the Commons with an Amendt. *July* 10, 1286
Commons Amendt. con., and agreed to *July* 13, 1555
Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. cxix]

WATSON, Lord
Arbitration (Scotland) Bill, Pres. [25] 4; 2R., 390

WAYS AND MEANS

Budget

Q. Mr. Goschen; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 2 [22] 1114; Q. Mr. A. C. Morton; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 9, 1584; Q. Mr. Bill; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 31 [25] 35

Death Duties, Qs. Sir M. H. Beach, Mr. Sexton, Sir R. Paget, Dr. Macgregor; As. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 19 [23] 857; Qs. Sir M. H. Beach, Sir G. Baden-Powell; As. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 29, 988; Q. Mr. Long; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 23, 1103; Q. Mr. Brodrick; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 26, 1451; Qs. Mr. Carson, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Knox, Mr. Bartley; As. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 30, 1680; Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 26, 1450; Q. Mr. T. W. Russell; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 1 [24] 47; Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 1, 49, 50; Qs. Mr. Jeffreys, Mr. Brodrick, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 1, 50; Qs. Mr. Knox, Mr. Lambert, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 3, 238; Qs. Mr. Carson, Mr. Sexton, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 4, 377; Q. Mr. Knox; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 7, 474; Qs. Mr. G. Bowles, Colonel Kenyon-Slaney, Mr. Bartley, Mr. Finch; As. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 7, 477; Qs. Mr. Knox, Mr. Weir, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 10, 796; Qs. Sir G. Baden-Powell, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 22, 1002; Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 24, 1189
Affidavit for Inland Revenue, Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 23 [29] 373
Collecting Death Duties, Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 18 [25] 1353
Colonies, Qs. Sir G. Baden-Powell, Mr. G. Bowles, Mr. J. Lowther, Mr. Arnold-Forster; As. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 12 [25] 924; Qs. Mr. Hogan, Colonel H. Vincent, Sir G. Baden-Powell; As. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 14, 1097; Q. Sir R. Webster; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 22 [26] 18; Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 26, 242; Q. Mr. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Mr. Buxton *July* 10, 1307; Copy pres. *June* 25 [26] 204
Copy pres. April 18 [23]

[*cont.*

WAYS AND MEANS—cont.
Budget—cont.
Death Duties—cont.
Gifts to the Nation, Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 9 [26] 1195
Indian Pensions, Q. Sir A. Scoble; A. Sir J. Rigby *June* 21 [25] 1644; Q. Sir R. Temple; A. Mr. H. H. Fowler *June* 26 [26] 222
Industrial Assurance Companies, Q. Sir H. Maxwell; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 8 [24] 608
Inland Revenue Officials — Insolvent Estates — Irish Questions, &c. — Qs. Mr. Carson, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Knox; As. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 30 [23] 1680; Qs. Mr. T. W. Russell; As. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 1 [24] 47; *May* 3, 238; Qs. Mr. Carson, Mr. Sexton, Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 4, 377; Qs. Mr. Knox; As. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 7, 478; *May* 10, 796; Qs. Mr. M. Healy; As. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 5 [25] 426; *June* 8, 692; Q. Mr. Dane; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 7, 589; Qs. Mr. Bartley, Mr. T. W. Russell; As. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 21, 1645; Q. Mr. T. Healy; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 21, 1646; Q. Mr. Barry; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 22 [26] 18; Q. Mr. T. Healy; A. Sir W. Harcourt *July* 24 [27] 806
Property Abroad, Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 11 [25] 810; *June* 29 [26] 575
Service Annuities, Q. Mr. Talbot; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 31 [25] 35
Succession Duty, Qs. Mr. G. Bowles; As. Sir W. Harcourt *June* 5 [25] 426; *June* 12, 927

Income Tax, Q. Mr. B. Hoare; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 12 [23] 219; Q. Mr. Colston; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 26, 1451; Q. Mr. Chaplin; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 24, 1228; Q. Mr. Darling; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 7 [24] 481; Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 10, 797; Q. Mr. Leon; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 31 [25] 34
Naval Defence Fund, Q. Lord G. Hamilton; A. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 23 [23] 1097
Spirit Duty, Qs. Mr. Sexton, Mr. Clancy; As. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 17 [23] 636; Qs. Mr. Clancy, Mr. Goschen, Mr. Field; As. Sir W. Harcourt *April* 20, 987; Q. Mr. R. Cooke; A. Sir W. Harcourt *May* 3 [24] 241

Statement
Copy pres. *April* 16 [23] 590
Speech by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in opening the Budget; Debate thereon *April* 16 [23] 469
Resolutions con. in Committee—
Tea
Customs Duty on Beer
Customs Duty on Spirits
Excise Duty on Spirits
Estate Duty
Income Tax
Amendment of Law as to Customs and Inland Revenue

[*cont.*

WAYS AND MEANS—cont.
Budget—cont.
Statement—cont.
Suez Canal Shares
Imperial and Naval Defence Act *April* 16 [23] 553; *April* 23, 1107; *April* 24, 1229; Report *April* 17, 748; *April* 25, 1384
Finance Bill (see that title)
Resolution to Authorise Clause 15 of the Finance Bill, Con. in Com., and agreed to *June* 21 [25] 1650; Report *June* 22 [26] 23

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill
Res. to grant out of the Consolidated Fund towards making good Supply for the year ending *Mar* 31, 1894, the sum of £577,222; Com. *Mar* 16 [22] 556; Report *Mar* 19, 675
Res. to grant out of the Consolidated Fund towards making good Supply for the year ending *Mar* 31, 1895, the sum of £5,981,100; Com. *Mar* 16 [22] 556; Report *Mar* 19, 675
Res. to grant out of the Consolidated Fund towards making good Supply for the year ending *Mar* 31, 1895, the sum of £785 14s.; Com. *Mar* 20 [22] 788; Report *Mar* 21, 852
Res. to grant out of the Consolidated Fund towards making good Supply for the year ending *Mar* 31, 1895, the sum of £3,918,500; Com., *Mar* 20 [22] 788; Report *Mar* 21, 852

Consolidated Fund (No. 2) Bill
Res. to grant out of the Consolidated Fund towards making good Supply for the year ending *Mar* 31, 1895, the sum of £12,117,630; Com. *May* 21 [24] 995
Reported and Bill ordered *May* 22, 1084

Consolidated Fund (No. 3) Bill
Res. to grant out of the Consolidated Fund towards making good Supply for the year ending 31st day of March, 1895, the sum of £17,715,550; Com. *July* 23 [27] 788; Report *July* 24, 896

Consolidated Fund (Appropriation Bill)
Res. to grant out of the Consolidated Fund towards making good Supply for the year ending 31st day of March, 1895, the sum of £27,795,151; Com. *Aug* 20 [29] 124; *Amendts.* (Mr. Sexton's), 128; *Division*, 131; (Mr. H. Lewis's), 138; *Division*, 146; R.P.; Con. in Com. *Aug* 21, 276; Report *Aug* 22, 343
(See also under *Consolidated Fund Bills*)

Weather Forecasts
Q. Mr. Strachey; A. Mr. Gardner *May* 24 [24] 1184; Q. Mr. H. Hoare; A. Mr. Gardner *Aug* 13 [28] 774

Webb, Mr. A., *Waterford, W.*
Cambridge Corporation Bill, Con. [24] 335
Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act (1887) Repeal (No. 2) Bill, Intro. [22] 452
Indian Opium Reports [27] 1130
Ireland
Birr Barracks Scandal [28] 127; [29] 164
Labourers' Cottages, Kilmacthomas [25] 1345
Licensed Houses in Buttevant [23] 341
Prisons—Lady Visitors [23] 979
Scart Hely Voters' List [29] 150
Post Office and Foreign Lottery Advertisements [23] 1221
Supply
Administration of Ireland [25] 1575
National Gallery, Ireland [29] 74
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Com. [27] 1524
Trinidad Railway Officials, Charges against [25] 405
Uganda—Sir G. Portal's Report [23] 339

Webster, Mr. R. G., *St. Pancras, E.*
Army Estimates
Clothing, &c. [26] 968
Militia [25] 1038; [26] 847, 849
Old Parliament House of Scotland [26] 1112
Army Medical Staff—Surgeon-Major Hamilton G. Gardner [22] 1514
Cab Strike—Licences [24] 1180, 1283, 1309
Chino-Japanese War [27] 1573
Coaling the Mediterranean Fleet [26] 219
East London Water Bill, 2R. [22] 1412
Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill [26] 960; 2R. [27] 819, 821, 878, 909, 912; Motion for Select Com., 949; [28] 40, 41, 42, 43, 61, 63, 65, 70, 75, 76, 78, 91, 96, 97, 100, 199, 225, 397
Established Church (Wales) Bill, Motion for Leave [23] 1692
"Havock" Plans [24] 1263
Hong Kong Plague [26] 238, 567
London County Council (Tower Bridge Southern Approach) Bill, 2R. [22] 1219, 1229
Marine Transport Service [24] 1263
Meeting Places for Religious and other Bodies [27] 375
Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, 2R. [27] 1663
South Kensington Museum Façade [22] 1515
Staines Rifle Range [27] 1394
Supply
Lifeboats [28] 1537
Local Sanitary Authorities and Public Buildings [24] 954
Ordnance Survey Maps [24] 992
Rating of Government Property [28] 1406
Stoneyford Postmastership [28] 442
Swaziland Affairs [24] 762
Transvaal—Commandeering [26] 128, 241, 451, 683

[cont.

WEBSTER, Mr. R. G.—*cont.*
- Troopships—"Indulgence" Passages from India [24] 1263
- Vehicles' Lights Bill, Intro. [22] 460
- Volunteer Decoration [22] 1515
- West Ham Town Clerkships [27] 363

WEBSTER, Sir R. E., *Isle of Wight*
- Auckland University—Case of Mr. W. S. Aldis [25] 1634
- Behring Sea Award Bill, 2R. [22] 1480, 1481; Com., 1682, 1686
- Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, 2R. [23] 1326; Con. [25] 492
- Church Patronage Bill, 2R. [24] 160
- Contagious Diseases (Animals) Bill, 2R. [25] 387
- East London Water Bill, 2R. [22] 1412, 1413
- Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, Com. [28] 399
- Established Church (Wales) Bill, Motion for Leave [23] 1535, 1537, 1541
- Estate Duty and the Colonies [26] 18
- Finance Bill, Com., *cl.* 1 [24] 1226, 1247, 1471, 1485, 1549, 1554, 1558, 1559
  [25] 117, 118, 120, 334, 342, 361; *cl.* 2, 383, 435, 439, 441, 444, 455, 456, 459, 470, 478, 480, 482, 483, 484, 527, 528, 529, 628, 630, 633; *cl.* 3, 653, 717, 739; *cl.* 4, 857, 863, 865, 868, 871, 874; *cl.* 5, 886, 963, 966, 968, 970, 971, 972, 973, 977, 983, 1127, 1135, 1136; *cl.* 6, 1275, 1287, 1289, 1293, 1294, 1299, 1365, 1367, 1375, 1381, 1384, 1395; *cl.* 7, 1405, 1406, 1411, 1413, 1414, 1417, 1420, 1422, 1423, 1426, 1500, 1501, 1505, 1507, 1508, 1509, 1510, 1513, 1514; *cl.* 8, 1515; *cl.* 9, 1517, 1522, 1523, 1529, 1531, 1536, 1537, 1543; *cl.* 10, 1651, 1652, 1653, 1661, 1662, 1666, 1670, 1673, 1676; *cl.* 11, 1683, 1684, 1685; *cl.* 12, 1686, 1687
  [26] *cl.* 17, 150, 151, 158, 164, 165, 166, 179, 181, 182; *cl.* 18, 192, 193, 194, 197; *cl.* 29, 495; *New cls.*, 631, 633, 638, 642, 643, 644; Con., 1201, 1220, 1221, 1315, 1349, 1357, 1358, 1374, 1428, 1429, 1430, 1509, 1512, 1514, 1520, 1526, 1527, 1537, 1544, 1592, 1593, 1611, 1614, 1617, 1620, 1622, 1624, 1627, 1628, 1629, 1630, 1632, 1638, 1640, 1641, 1643, 1645, 1646, 1648
- Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, 2R. [24] 728, 732
- Patent Agents Bill, 2R. [22] 1375
- Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Intro. [22] 455; 2R., 1377; Com. [24] 1086, 1087, 1089, 1093, 1099, 1100, 1101, 1102, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1112, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1120, 1121; Con., 1639, 1645, 1651, 1654, 1656, 1659, 1662, 1664, 1665, 1666, 1668, 1671, 1672, 1673, 1675; [25] 542, 543
- Privilege—Voluntary Conveyances Bill, Blocking of, by Mr. Perks [23] 646
- Public Buildings (London) Bill, Com. [24] 1125
- Quarter Sessions Bill, 2R. [23] 1325
- Rating of Machinery Bill, 2R. [24] 741

[*cont.*

WEBSTER, Sir R. E.—*cont.*
- Supply
  - Law Charges—Cordite Dispute [22] 370
  - Magistrates' Clerks [22] 370
  - Parliament Street [24] 971, 974, 975
  - Rating of Government Property [27] 1278
- Supreme Court of Judicature (Procedure) Bill, 2R. [25] 386
- Thames Conservancy Board, Instr. to Com. [24] 1377

WEDDERBURN, Sir W., *Banffshire*
- Business of the House (Ministerial Statement), Motion for Adjournment of the House [27] 413
- Crofters' Act, Res. [23] 1651
- Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Acts Amendment Bill, Intro. [22] 454
- Cruelty to a Bullock at Gloucester [25] 1633
- Herring Fishery in Scotland [23] 1676
- India
  - Agrarian Riots in Assam [24] 1166
  - Agriculturists' Grievances at Bombay [24] 1157
  - Bengal District Magistracy [25] 5
  - Bombay and Aden Mail Offices [28] 476
  - Criminal Procedure [24] 222
  - Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Acts [25] 17
  - Exchange Compensation Allowances [29] 351
  - Financial Expenditure Inquiry [29] 351
  - Government of, Res. [28] 1128
  - Kine, Slaughter of [24] 219; [27] 1026
  - Land Revenue [23] 838
  - Legislative Councils [25] 16; [27] 1560
  - Military Expenditure [29] 352
  - Mitchell, Mr., Appointment of [27] 549
  - Police Force—Assistant Superintendents [23] 204
  - Public Expenditure on Railways [26] 223
  - Public Service Commission [22] 316; [27] 1026
  - Religious Impartiality [22] 1447
  - Revenue Accounts, Com. [28] 1288, 1341
  - Text Books in Schools [22] 1447
  - Troopships [27] 1572
- Local Government (Scotland) Bill, Con. [28] 518; Lords Amendts. [29] 304
- Meat, Foreign and Home Fed [22] 694
- Natal Franchise Laws [29] 371
- Supply—Fishery Board, Scotland [29] 56
- Trawling in Scotland [22] 317, 1096

Weighbridges, Cattle (see under titles SCOTLAND and IRELAND—*Cattle Weighbridges*)

Weighing Machines (see under *Trade, Board of*)

Weighing of Cattle Act, 1887
- Return ordered *April* 24 [23] 1324

Weights and Measures
  Motion for Select Com. (Sir S. Montagu) *June* 25 [26] 202

WEIR, Mr. J. G., *Ross and Cromarty*
  Army Estimates—Stirling Castle [25] 1037
  Boiler Explosions in London [24] 1534
  British Honduras Currency Question [24] 45, 1267
  Budget Proposals—Estate Duty [24] 796
  Building Bye-Laws in the Metropolis [27] 1256; [28] 553
  Bulwant Rao Bute [28] 259, 1247
  Business of the House [27] 285; [28] 252, 479; Res., 1260
  Ceylon — Warwickshire Regimental Rifles [22] 1579
  Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, 3R. [22] 896
  Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill, 2R. [29] 413
  Cordite
    Lee-Metford Rifle [24] 1527
    Manufacture [24] 1171; [25] 1219
    Maxim Gun [24] 1266
  Danish Smokeless Powder [24] 1175
  Enfield and Sparkbrook Factories [22] 1580; [23] 209; [25] 913
  Finance Bill [25] 1476; Com. [26] 330
  Government Farms, Wages on [29] 419
  Hampstead—House Construction [26] 1193, 1471; [27] 1254
  House of Commons
    Electric Lighting [28] 558
    Ladies' Gallery [24] 471; [25] 175, 1224
    Questions [29] 423
    Ventilation [27] 1268; [28] 256, 557, 768
    Water Closets off Committee Rooms—Water Supply, &c. [28] 559, 766, 993, 1386
  Irish Haymakers—Attack on at Barnet [28] 261, 985
  London District Surveyors [23] 1673
  London Streets and Buildings Bill, Instr. to Com. [26] 942; Con. [27] 10; Lords Amendts. [28] 1489
  Martini Rifle [23] 208, 209
  Maxim Guns [24] 806
  Navy Estimates — Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, &c. [23] 278
  Ordnance Survey Maps [24] 1181
  Quarter Sessions—Bar Practice [27] 1266
  Scotland
    Assault by a Lewis Schoolmaster [22] 1567
    Cattle Trucks on the Highland Railway [28] 1241
    Channel Fleet [25] 421
    Colonisation Board Staff [25] 294, 409
    Crofters' Commission [24] 361, 371; [25] 918; [28] 552
    Crofters' Legislation [23] 220; [24] 40, 378, 811; [28] 562, 771, 996
    Crofters' Saltcoats Settlements [22] 1254; [24] 1173, 1420; [26] 1192

[*cont.*

WEIR, Mr. J. G.—*cont.*
  Scotland—*cont.*
    Dalmore Shooting Range [28] 564
    Dingwall Prosecutions [22] 858, 1252, 1570; [25] 1350
    Dog Licences—Prosecution, &c. [24] 1523; [25] 1344; [26] 798, 799; [27] 23; [28] 561
    Dunphail Railway Accident [24] 40, 1173; [25] 416, 811
    Fiscal for Ross and Cromarty—Application for Licences [24] 998
    Fishing Licences [24] 1174
    Flannan Islands Lighthouse [24] 463, 1389
    Footpaths in the Island of Lewis [22] 859, 1566
    Game Prosecutions—Case of George Milne [28] 551
    Garve and Ullapool Railway [28] 24
    Grazing on Public Roads [26] 1191
    Hall, Mr. H., Case of [26] 683
    Harbours in the Island of Lewis [24] 1390
    Highland Railways
      Automatic Brakes [26] 116; [28] 552
      Hours of Labour [25] 417
      Insanitary Stations [24] 465
    Insanitary Dwellings in Sutherlandshire [27] 1255
    Invergordon Ferry [22] 860
    Loch Broom Navigation [23] 632
    Magistrates and Licensing Questions [24] 1539
    Moray Firth Fishermen and Water Bailiffs [23] 612; [24] 24
    Peats—Children Taking to Schools [22] 865
    Portnaguran Harbour [24] 1390, 1538
    Portness Harbour Works [24] 362
    Procurator Fiscal, Lewis [23] 613
    Railway Communication in Ross-shire [22] 1255; [24] 1389
    Returning Officers [24] 1267; [25] 285, 397
    Sheriff Substitute for Sutherlandshire—Gaelic Language [23] 610
    Steamboats, Insanitary Condition of [24] 466, 1418
    Training Ships [24] 1001
    Trawling—Protection of Fishing—New Cruisers, &c. [23] 610; [24] 474; [25] 285, 397; [26] 1191; [28] 12, 251
    Ullapool County Rate Collection [24] 23
  Secondary Education Commission [23] 200
  Supply
    British Honduras [28] 1509
    Colonisation Board—Alexander Young [29] 102, 104, 105
    Crofter Commission [22] 838, 840; [29] 85, 362
    Crofter Dog Licences [29] 116
    Highlands and Islands Public Works [29] 114, 115
    Highlands and Islands Telegraphic Extension [24] 1254
    Highland Railways [28] 1531
    Holyhead Harbour Master [28] 1393
    Home Office Officials [28] 1437, 1438
    House of Lords Offices, 271
    Indian Opium Commission, 112
    Jabez Balfour [28] 1545

[*cont.*

WEIR, Mr. J. G.—*cont.*
  Supply—*cont.*
    Lighthouses [28] 1543
    Light Railways [28] 1423
    Niger Company, &c. [28] 1480
    Peterhead Harbour [28] 1396
    Post Office [29] 117, 119
    Public Buildings [24] 968, 978
    Salmon Fishing Licences in Scotland [28] 1585, 1587
    Science and Art Department [29] 96
    Scotch Affairs [22] 845, 850; [29] 45, 46, 47
    Surveys [24] 987
    Trawling [22] 890; [29] 57, 60
    Treasury Allowances and Salaries [28] 1433
    Vote on Account [22] 805, 831
  Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill, Con. [28] 119, 120
  Underground Railway [24] 1534; [25] 304, 400, 899; [26] 21, 429, 689

WELBY, Lord
  Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, Com. [28] 1368

Wemyss, &c., Water Provisional Order Bill
c. Intro., Mr. J. B. Balfour; Read 1° *April* 13 [23] 426
  Reported *April* 24 [23] 1327; *May* 29 [24] 1635
  As amended, Con. *May* 30 [24] 1680
  Read 3°, and passed *May* 31 [25] 132
l. Read 1ª *June* 1, 161
  Read 2ª *June* 12, 896
  Com.; Reported; Standing Com. negatived *June* 15, 1202
  Read 3ª, and passed *June* 18, 1336
  Royal Assent *July* 3
    [57° & 58° Vic. c. xli]

WEST INDIES
  Contagious Diseases among the Troops, Q. Mr. Jeffreys; A. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman *April* 20 [23] 983
  Dominica (see that title)
  Mails, Q. Mr. Hogan; A. Mr. A. Morley *Mar* 19 [22] 561
  St. Lucia—McKinley Tariff, Q. Colonel H. Vincent; A. Mr. Buxton *April* 26 [23] 1409
  Venezuela (see that title)

West London District Schools
  (See under *Local Government Board—Pauper Children*)

West Middlesex Water Bill
c. Read 2° *April* 5 [22] 1425
l. Read 2ª *June* 29 [26] 517

Westminster Abbey
  Removing Houses in Old Palace Yard, Q. Mr. J. E. Ellis; A. Mr. H. Gladstone *May* 31 [25] 21

West Riding of the County of York—Charitable Endowments
  Return ordered *Aug* 10 [28] 652

West Riding Rivers Conservancy Bill
c. Lords Amendts. con., and agreed to *Aug* 3 [28] 5

WHARTON, Mr. J. L., *York, W.R., Ripon*
  Habitual Inebriates [27] 162
  Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Con. [24] 1657

WHITBREAD, Mr. S., *Bedford*
  Business of the House—Procedure on the Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Bill, Res. [27] 1442, 1443
  Finance Bill, Com. [26] 306, 307, 310, 357, 359, 360, 361

Whitehall Writers (see under *Civil Service*)

WHITEHEAD, Sir J., *Leicester*
  Business of the House [26] 320
  Canal Rates [23] 635
  Disarmament Policy [22] 1008
  Discharged Soldiers as Postmen [23] 636
  Finance Bill, Con. [26] 1248
  Intemperance, Illustrated Lessons on [22] 1005
  Kendal Telephone Dispute [23] 1661
  Liscard (Cheshire) School [22] 309
  Matlock British School [22] 309
  Post Office and Foreign Lottery Advertisements [23] 1221
  Railway and Canal Traffic Bill [22] 225, 454; [24] 1273, 1285, 1535; [26] 101, 1080
  Railway Rates [22] 1381, 1445
  Rivers Pollution Prevention Bill and the Leicester County Council Petition [26] 322

WHITELAW, Mr. W., *Perth*
  Brazilian Civil War—Loss of British Officers [23] 221
  Canadian Cattle Importation [23] 1088
  Military Service Abroad [27] 803
  Post Cards, Re-addressing [27] 380
  Scotland
    Barlinnie Prison [22] 862
    Bravery, Treasury Appreciation of [27] 1005
                                    [*cont.*

WHITELAW, Mr. W.—*cont.*
Scotland—*cont.*
Cess and Stent Taxes [23] 24, 1214; [24] 480; [25] 427
Employers' Liability [23] 853
Perth City Police [27] 1006
Perth Post Office [27] 801
Railways—Hours of Labour [23] 1685; [27] 691

Supply
Post Office Buildings [24] 943
Scotch Affairs [22] 849, 850

WHITELEY, Mr. G., *Stockport*
India—Import Duty [22] 328, 1441
Period of Qualification and Elections Bill, 2R. [24] 301
Police and Sanitary Regulations Committee [22] 1243
Pondoland, Annexation of [22] 1437; [24] 591; [25] 1080; [27] 1468
Rating of Machinery Bill, 2R. [24] 737
Silver Question and the Eastern Trade [22] 346

WHITMORE, Mr. C. A., *Chelsea*
Army Estimates—Military Education [26] 1119
Equalisation of Rates (London) Bill, 2R. [27] 864; Com. [28] 47, 48, 98, 109, 200, 382
London County Council (General Powers) Bill, Con. [24] 1515
London Streets and Buildings Bill, Con. [27] 12
Metropolitan Police Court Arrangements [26] 120
Mining Royalties, Rents, and Wayleaves, Res. [22] 1544
Public Buildings (London) Bill, Com. [24] 1125

WHITTAKER, Mr. T. P., *York, W.R., Spen Valley*
Building Societies (No. 2) Bill, Con. [27] 1616; [28] 409
Finance Bill, Com. [26] 301, 302
Telephone Companies and the Government [28] 1249

WICKHAM, Mr. W., *Hants, Petersfield*
Foreign-Made Paper for the Public Service [26] 787
India—Cotton Duties [22] 443
Universal Postal Delivery [23] 611

WIGRAM, Mr. A. Money, *Essex, Romford*
Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 529

Wild Birds—Close Time
Q. Mr. Wilson-Todd; A. Mr. Asquith *Mar* 13 [22] 149

Wild Birds' Protection Act (1880) Amendment Bill
c. Intro., Sir H. Maxwell; Read 1° *April* 3 [22] 1316
Order for 2R.; Debate adjourned *April* 11 [23] 169
Read 2° *April* 17, 746
Com.; R.P. *April* 19, 955; *April* 23, 1203; *April* 26, 1546
Con. in Com., and Reported *May* 31 [25] 132
Read 3° *June* 1, 270
l. Read 1ª *June* 4, 283
Read 2ª *June* 26 [26] 209
Com.; Reported, &c. *July* 2, 661
Reported from Standing Com. *July* 3, 779
Amendts. reported *July* 5, 942
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 6, 1063
l. Returned from the Commons with Amendts. agreed to *July* 13, 1555
Royal Assent *July* 20
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 24]

WILL, Mr. J. S., *Montrose, &c.*
Scotch Pauper Lunatics [24] 1538

WILLIAMS, Mr. A. J., *Glamorgan, S.*
Barry Dock and Railway Act Amendment Bill [26] 560, 561; Con., 321
Ely Valley Railway [25] 671
Jury Law Amendment Bill, Intro. [22] 853

WILLIAMS, Mr. J. C., *Cornwall, Truro*
Truro and Newquay Junction Railway Bill, Con. [24] 1134

WILLIAMS, Mr. J. Carvell, *Notts, Mansfield*
Antwerp—Burial of Seamen [26] 1557
Bishopric of Bristol Act (1884) Amendment Bill, 2R. [25] 1723
Burials Bill, Intro. [22] 453
Burial Board Fees [27] 1387; [28] 982
Burial Boards and The Local Government Act [23] 1442
Cathedral Churches in Scotland [26] 443, 1077; [29] 278
Charity Commission—Parliamentary Commissioner, &c. [22] 869, 903, 1031
Church Patronage Bill, 2R. [24] 165; Con. [27] 330
Finance Bill, Com. [26] 497; [27] 112
Gresham University Draft Charter [22] 867
Guernsey Primary Education [25] 813
Private Bill Reports [23] 1442
Quarries, Regulation of [26] 234
Supply—Registrar General [29] 32

WILLIAMS, Mr. J. P., *Birmingham, S.*
Assizes Relief Act [23] 1090
Buckell, Mr. Robert [23] 189, 190
Canal Tolls and Charges Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill, Con. [27] 1372
Finance Bill, Com., *cl.* 2 [25] 631, 633; *cl.* 5, 1116, 1118, 1119, 1120; *New cl.* [26] 719
Law Officers of the Crown [22] 950, 952; [23] 1682; [24] 37, 378; [28] 575, 1298
London Police Magistrates—Case of Elizabeth Saunders [27] 1142, 1398
Naval Construction — Nickel Steel Plates [22] 318
Navy Estimates—Armour Plates [23] 289, 290
Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, 2R. [24] 731
Rating of Machinery Bill, 2R. [24] 738, 745
Supply
  Law Officers of the Crown [22] 368; [27] 1300
  Metropolitan Police Courts [22] 995, 997
  South Kensington Museum [22] 1069, 1070, 1071

WILLIAMS, Mr. W., *Swansea, District*
Llanarth National School [25] 1351

WILLOUGHBY DE ERESBY, Lord, *Lincolnshire, Horncastle*
Ways and Means — Financial Statement, Com. [23] 1301

WILLOX, Mr. J. A., *Liverpool, Everton*
Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill, Con. [27] 1376

WILSON, Mr. C. H., *Hull, W.*
Army Estimates—Conveyance of Troops [26] 917

WILSON, Mr. H. J., *York, W.R., Holmfirth*
Army Estimates—Contagious Diseases among the Troops [25] 1028, 1029
Cambridge Corporation Bill, Con. [24] 356, 357
Cardiff Corporation Bill, Con. [26] 666
Holmfirth County Court [26] 1309
India—Abor Tribes [25] 902
Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, Com. [28] 1026
Parliamentary Select Committee Evidence, Indexes to [28] 1231
Police Evidence of Drunkenness [24] 1178

WILSON, Mr. J., *Durham, Mid.*
Business of the House [25] 62; [27] 283, 284; [28] 253
Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, 2R. [23] 1331, 1365, 1369, 1370, 1375, 1379; Com. [28] 806, 853, 857, 866, 867, 871, 1004, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1028, 1043, 1044

[*cont.*

WILSON, Mr. J.—*cont.*
Steam Engines and Boilers (Persons in Charge) Bill, Intro. [22] 454
Supply—Post Office [29] 117, 118

WILSON, Mr. John, *Lanark, Govan*
Finance Bill, Com. [26] 329
Glasgow Licensing Question [23] 1216
Liquor Traffic (Local Veto) (Scotland) Bill, Intro. [22] 460
Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Com. [24] 1113; Con., 1637, 1640
Scotch Coal Strike [27] 1017
Scotch Education Code, Examinations under [24] 1542
Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [22] 1187

WILSON, Mr. J. Havelock, *Middlesbrough*
"Balkannah"—Cruelty to a Seaman [23] 21, 22
"Bannockburn"—Alleged Manslaughter of a Seaman [23] 1424
Civil Service Second Division Clerks [24] 33
Desertions from British Ships [23] 981
Dock Labourers and the Shipping Federation [23] 1408
Early Morning Work on H.M. Ships at Portsmouth [23] 982
Foreign Goods (Mark of Origin) Bill, 2R. [24] 192
"Highbury," Loss of the [24] 1001
Merchant Shipping—Undermanning [22] 1105
Navy Estimates—Manning [23] 42
Navy Reserves [22] 665, 669, 673
"Penarth," Loss of the [24] 1000
"Port Yarrock," Loss of the—Motion for Adjournment of the House [22] 906

Wilson Tariff (see under AMERICA—UNITED STATES)

WILSON-TODD, Colonel W. H., *York, N.R., Howdenshire*
Canal Tolls [23] 18
Wild Birds in Yorkshire—Close Time [22] 149

Wimbledon Rifle Range (see under *Army*)

Windsor Forest
Q. Mr. Labouchere; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 25 [24] 1276; Qs. Mr. Labouchere; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 25, 1276

Wine and Beerhouse Acts Amendment Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Herbert Lewis; Read 1° *May* 25 [24] 1364
[Dropped]

Winter Assizes Acts, 1876 to 1890
- *Copies pres. July* 24 [27] 896

Winwick Rectory Act
- Q. Mr. Legh ; A. Mr. Leveson-Gower *July* 6 [26] 1082

WODEHOUSE, Mr. E. R., *Bath*
- Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [23] 1031, 1598

WOLFF, Mr. G. W., *Belfast, E.*
- "Balkannah"—Cruelty to a Seaman [23] 22
- Business of the House [26] 578
- Dockyard Labour and Wages, Res. [22] 622, 658
- Ireland
  - Belfast Disturbances—2nd Battalion Dorset Regiment [23] 215
  - Board of Irish Lights and the Briggs Reef Buoy [22] 572 ; [23] 324
  - Lighthouses—Grant in Aid of the Mercantile Marine Fund [23] 840
  - Sligo, Leitrim, and Northern Counties Railway [23] 1429
  - Strangford Graveyard [25] 686
- Navy Estimates — Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, &c. [23] 274
- Opium Commission [25] 1470
- Re-directed Postal Matter [25] 23
- Ways and Means—Financial Statement, Com. [23] 526, 528

WOLMER, Viscount, *Edinburgh, W.*
- Army Estimates—Chelsea and Kilmainham Hospitals [27] 316
- Edinburgh Castle Rock [22] 1449
- Edinburgh Commissary Office [22] 1449
- Established Church (Wales) Bill, Motion for Leave [23] 1760, 1761, 1762, 1764, 1767, 1768, 1774
- Exton School [26] 1488
- Freemantle's, Sir C., Committee [22] 1448
- Gymnastic Apparatus for Rural Schools [25] 804
- Perth City Police [27] 1006
- Post Office Classification [27] 1010
- Standing Committee (Scotland), Res. [23] 1000, 1002
- Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, Com. [27] 1055, 1159
- Vacation of Seat on Succession to Peerage, Motion for Select Com. [26] 419
- Volunteer Decoration [22] 1448 ; [23] 183
- Warrant Officers and Good Conduct Medal [25] 1456
- Welsh Cathedrals [25] 802

WOLVERTON, Lord
- Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, 2R. [26] 210

Women's Franchise Bill
- *c.* Intro., Dr. Clark ; Read 1° *Mar* 20 [22] 787 [Dropped]

Women's Suffrage Bill
- *l.* Pres., Lord Denman ; Read 1ª *May* 10 [24] 749
- 2R. negatived *July* 20 [27] 535

WOODALL, MR. W. (Financial Secretary to the War Office), *Hanley*
- Aldershot Water Supply [28] 991
- Armour-Piercing Projectiles [22] 1578
- Army Estimates
  - Bradford Barracks [26] 1111
  - Clothing [26] 975, 976, 978
  - Enfield Factory, &c. [26] 998
  - Factories — Hours of Labour [26] 1016, 1020, 1022
  - Forage [22] 430, 431
  - Land Forces [22] 543, 548
  - Meat Supplies, &c. [25] 1047, 1049, 1050
- Boots, Contracts for [26] 576, 1064, 1467
- Bradford Barracks [22] 565
- Brighton Cavalry Barracks [24] 29
- Candidates, Medical Examinations of [28] 988
- Ceylon—Warwickshire Regimental Rifles [22] 1579
- Chelsea Hospital [28] 1254
- Clerical Department Writers [24] 790
- Clerks at Woolwich [26] 790
- Compassionate Campaign Pensions [24] 27
- Cordite Manufacture [28] 125
- Crimean and Indian Mutiny Pensioners [22] 435
- Cutlery Contracts [23] 188
- Discharged Soldiers' Grievances [23] 336
- Employment for Soldiers' Wives — Shirt-making [24] 755
- Enfield and Sparkbrook Factories [22] 1437, 1580 ; [23] 209, 210, 457, 1218
- Enfield Factory Wages [24] 235
- Enfield Lock Building Works [24] 775
- Engine Drivers at Woolwich Arsenal [26] 1068
- Frog's Marching [24] 804
- Ireland
  - Bands at Political Meetings [28] 1243 ; [29] 158
  - Birr Barrack Scandal [29] 164
  - Catholic Holidays [29] 359
  - Curragh Camp Buildings—Irish Stone [26] 440
  - Dublin Drainage Scheme [28] 762, 1241
  - Licensed Houses in Buttevant [23] 341
  - Londonderry Barracks [27] 1562
- London Small Arms Company, Bow [26] 792
- Manufacture of Warlike Stores [26] 1069
- Martini Rifle [23] 209
- Maxim Guns [24] 2806
- Ordnance Store Department, Woolwich—Wages, &c. [28] 1384

[*cont.*

WOODALL, Mr. W.—*cont.*
- Rifle Ranges—Tipton Fatality [28] 1227; [29] 281
- Straits Settlements—Military Contribution [29] 172
- Volunteer Camps [24] 805
- Waltham Abbey Powder Factory Explosion [23] 338; [24] 575, 605, 789, 805; Res., 1431, 1446
- Waltham Abbey Powder Factory Pensions [24] 809
- War Office Chemists [24] 788, 789
- Woolwich Arsenal Labourers' Hours of Labour, Wages, &c. [24] 224, 364, 763, 793; [27] 375
- Woolwich Gun Factory Discharges [29] 177

Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues of the Crown
- *Cricket in the New Forest*, Q. Captain Sinclair; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 3 [28] 29
- *Crown Lands and Cottages*, Q. Mr. Yerburgh; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 3 [22] 1253; Qs. Mr. Yerburgh, Mr. C. Hobhouse; As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *April* 17 [23] 608
- *Essex Fishing Grounds* (see under title *Fisheries*)
- *Government Farms. Wages on*, Q. Mr. Everett; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 14 [28] 984; Qs. Mr. Everett. Mr. A. C. Morton: As. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 24 [29] 419
- *Halkyn Mountain Quarries*, Q. Mr. S. Smith; A. Mr. Asquith *July* 17 [27] 160
- *Her Majesty's Theatre, Pall Mall*, Q. Mr. Knox; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *Aug* 2 [27] 1579
- *Mining Rights in Wales* (see under title WALES)
- *Mining Royalties* (see that title)
- *Paper pres.*; to be printed *July* 2 [26] 772
- *Vote for*, Con. in Com. *Aug* 18 [28] 1581
- *Windsor Forest, Charge for Keys to*, Q. Mr. Labouchere; A. Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 25 [24] 1276
- *Windsor Park—Polo*, Qs. Mr. Labouchere; As. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, Sir J. T. Hibbert *May* 25 [24] 1276

WOODS, Mr. S., *Lancashire, Ince*
- Admiralty Contract Work, Overtime on [22] 440
- Business of the House [27] 283, 284
- Coal Dust Explosions [27] 1007
- Colliery Explosion in South Wales [26] 426
- Government Printing Contracts—Fair Wages Resolution [28] 770
- Income Tax District Commissioners [25] 1098, 1646
- Leigh, Alleged Wrongful Imprisonment at [28] 764
- Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, 2R. [23] 1372; Com. [28] 815, 851, 853, 865
- Mining Royalties, Rents, and Wayleaves, Res. [22] 1523; [23] 216

[*cont.*

WOODS, Mr. S.—*cont.*
- Payment of Members [28] 253
- Queen's Speech, Reply to [22] 75
- Registrars of Births as Political Agents [22] 1439
- Torpedo-Boat Contracts [22] 682
- Wigan Police and Public Meetings [28] 770
- Wyndham Colliery, South Wales [27] 1391

Woolwich Factories (see under *Army*)

Workhouses
- (See under *Local Government Board*)
- *Scotch and Irish Questions* (see under titles SCOTLAND and IRELAND)

Working Men's Dwellings Bill
- *c.* Intro., Mr. Wrightson; Read 1° *Mar* 16 [22] 459

[Dropped]

Workmen's Houses Tenure Bill
- *c.* Intro., Mr. D. Crawford; Read 1° *Mar* 20 [22] 787

[Dropped]

Works and Public Buildings Office
- *Vote for*, Con. in Com. *Aug* 18 [28] 1588

WORKS, First Commissioner of—Mr. H. J. GLADSTONE

WORTLEY, Mr. C. B. STUART-, *Sheffield, Hallam*
- Anglo-Belgian Agreement [27] 28, 30
- Balfour, Jabez, Extradition of [27] 1585
- Coal Mines (Check Weigher) Bill, 2R. [27] 1661; [28] 887
- Copyright Works, Canadian Royalties on [23] 839
- False Trade Descriptions [23] 1213
- Foreign-Made Goods, Imports of [25] 687
- Foreign Meat, Marking of [23] 26
- Housing of the Working Classes [28] 255
- Laundries and the Factory Bill [25] 591
- London Streets and Buildings Bill, Instr. to Com. [26] 115, 116, 943; Con. [27] 7
- Merchandise Marks Act, Offences under [23] 618
- Merchandise Marks (Cutlery) Bill [26] 1481
- Merchandise Marks (Files) Bill, Intro. [22] 999; 2R. [24] 197, 198
- Metalliferous Mines, Inspectors of [27] 1405
- Metropolitan Police Court Clerks [22] 343
- Millbank Prison Site [23] 1423
- Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, Com. [28] 814
- Mines Inspectors' Reports [22] 1574
- Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, 2R. [24] 731
- Parliamentary Registers [23] 1427

WORTLEY, Mr. C. B. STUART- —*cont.*
Pistols and Revolvers—Accidents, Res. [22] 1041
Prevention of Cruelty to Children Bill, Com. [24] 1110, 1116
Quarries Bill, Con. [28] 1082
Railway and Canal Traffic Bill, Com. [28] 798
Scotch Coal Strike [27] 1016
Supply
Dangerous Trades [22] 359
Diplomatic and Consular Buildings [22] 1089
Extension of Admiralty Buildings [22] 984
Factory and Mines Inspectors [28] 1434
Factory Inspectors' New Offices [24] 958
Metalliferous Mines Inspectors—Mr. Leck, &c. [27] 1457; [28] 1445
Metropolitan Police Courts [22] 994, 995
Nottingham Execution [28] 1455
Uniforms Bill, 2R. [24] 714
Waltham Abbey Powder Factory Explosions [24] 576

Wrecks, Destruction of
Q. Mr. Mildmay; A. Mr. Burt *April* 24 [23] 1212

WRIGHT, Mr. H. S., *Nottingham, S.*
Metropolitan Police Court Clerks [22] 343
Volunteer Decoration [22] 315

WRIGHTSON, Mr. T., *Stockton-on-Tees*
Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, Com. [28] 848, 850
North Eastern Railway Tolls [23] 20
Railway Rates—North Eastern Railway [28] 240
Working Men's Dwellings Bill, Intro. [22] 459

WROUGHTON, Mr. P., *Berks, Abingdon*
Uffington Station Accident [26] 1304

WYNDHAM, Mr. G., *Dover*
Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act (1887) Repeal Bill, 2R. [23] 768
Finance Bill [25] 377, 462, 476, 477, 478, 540, 655, 981, 982, 1712; Com. [26] 64; Con., 1353, 1405; [27] 92, 93
Period of Qualification and Elections Bill, 2R. [24] 136, 250
Supply—Uganda Railway [28] 1469
Tenants Arbitration (Ireland) Bill, 2R. [27] 606, 613, 616, 617, 618; Com., *cl.* 1, 1059, 1085, 1097, 1170, 1197; 3R., 293

Wynn, Sir W. W.—Cruelty to a Horse
(see under *Animals*)

YERBURGH, Mr. R. A., *Chester*
Balfour, J. S., Extradition of [23] 847
Crown Lands and Cottages [22] 1253; [23] 608, 609
Marking of Foreign Meat [23] 842
Uganda [25] 689

YORK, Archbishop of
Licensing Law Amendment Bill, 2R. [26] 931

York, Duke and Duchess of
Birth of a Son
Notice of Motion for Address (Earl of Rosebery) *June* 25 [26] 105; Motion *June* 28, 373; Queen's Reply *July* 2, 657
Notice of Motion for Address (Sir W. Harcourt) *June* 25 [26] 136; Motion *June* 28, 460; Queen's Reply *July* 2, 676

YOUNG, Mr. S., *Cavan, E.*
Bankruptcy in Belfast [25] 8
Belfast School of Telegraphy [27] 384
Belfast Telegraph Office [27] 384
Carswell Point Foghorn [23] 970
Finance Bill, Com. [26] 761
Great Western Railway (No. 1) Bill, Instr. to Com. [25] 1069
Labourers' Acts—Cootehill Guardians [22] 872; [23] 325, 1083; [26] 126
Monaghan Asylum—Tea Contracts [22] 560
Parliamentary Revision Sessions in County Cavan [26] 1304

Zambesi (see under AFRICA)

ZANZIBAR (see under AFRICA)

Zanzibar Indemnity
Res. con. in Com. *July* 6 [26] 1168; Report *July* 9, 1279

Zanzibar Indemnity Bill
c. Intro., Mr. Mellor; Read 1° *July* 9 [26] 1279
Read 2° *July* 12, 1548
Con. in Com., and reported *July* 13, 1656
Read 3°, and passed *July* 16 [27] 116
l. Read 1ª *July* 17, 157
Read 2ª *July* 19, 335
Com.; Reported, &c. *July* 20, 537
Read 3ª, and passed *July* 23, 656
Royal Assent *July* 31
[57° & 58° Vic. c. 31]

END OF VOLUME XXIX., AND LAST VOLUME OF SESSION 1894.

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